

SPORTS REVIEW

April 1983

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**HOW BACKLUND
STOLE THE WWF
BELT FROM
ME... AGAIN!
BY SUPERSTAR
BILLY GRAHAM**

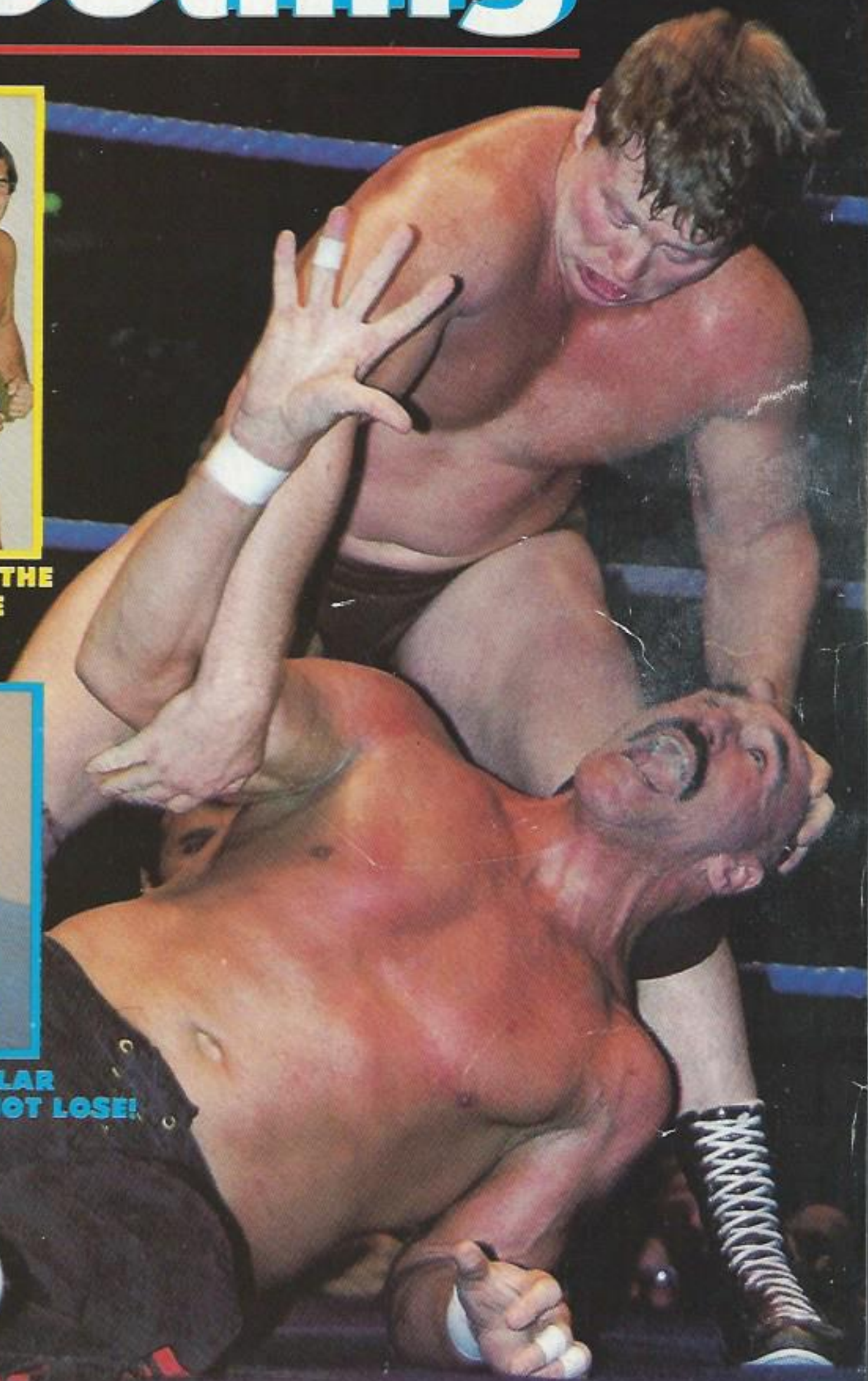
Wrestling



**WILL THE QUEST FOR THE
NWA TAG TEAM TITLE
TEAR THE BRISCOS
APART?**



**THE SIX MILLION DOLLAR
BEAUTY WHO DARE NOT LOSE!**



OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

- Champion: BOB BACKLUND
 1—BIG JOHN STUDD
 2—SUPERSTAR GRAHAM
 3—JIMMY SNUKA
 4—PEDRO MORALES
 5—MAGNIFICENT MURACO
 6—RAY STEVENS
 7—ROCKY JOHNSON
 8—PLAYBOY BUDDY ROSE
 9—EDDIE GILBERT
 10—THE POLISH PRINCE

AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

- Champion: NICK BOCKWINKEL
 1—HULK HOGAN
 2—RICK MARTEL
 3—WAHOO McDANIEL
 4—KEN PATERA
 5—JERRY LAWLER
 6—JESSE VENTURA
 7—CRUSHER BLACKWELL
 8—TULLY BLANCHARD
 9—MAD DOG VACHON
 10—JIM BRUNZELL

MOST POPULAR

- 1—JIMMY SNUKA
 2—ANDRE THE GIANT
 3—HULK HOGAN
 4—RICK MARTEL
 5—DUSTY RHODES
 6—BOB BACKLUND
 7—JACK BRISCO
 8—JUNKYARD DOG
 9—TOMMY RICH
 10—KERRY VON ERICH



BIG JOHN STUDD



JACK BRISCO



WAHOO McDANIEL



KERRY VON ERICH

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

- Champion: RIC FLAIR
 1—GREG VALENTINE
 2—PAUL ORNDORFF
 3—KEVIN SULLIVAN
 4—HARLEY RACE
 5—JACK BRISCO
 6—BOB ARMSTRONG
 7—BARRY WINDHAM
 8—HACKSAW BUTCH REED
 9—RODDY PIPER
 10—KERRY VON ERICH

TAG TEAMS

- 1—SGT. SLAUGHTER & DON KERNODLE
 2—GREG GAGNE & JIM BRUNZELL
 3—JAY & JULES STRONGBOW
 4—THE SAMOANS
 5—THE MOONDOGS
 6—BARRY WINDHAM & RON BASS
 7—THE FREEBIRDS
 8—RICK MORTON & KEN LUCAS
 9—RICK STEAMBOAT & JAY YOUNGBLOOD
 10—CRUSHER BLACKWELL & SHEIK ADNAN AL-KAISSIE

MOST HATED

- 1—KEVIN SULLIVAN
 2—TED DiBIASE
 3—JOHN STUDD
 4—SUPERSTAR GRAHAM
 5—NICK BOCKWINKEL
 6—RIC FLAIR
 7—MAGNIFICENT MURACO
 8—GREG VALENTINE
 9—SGT. SLAUGHTER
 10—TULLY BLANCHARD

THE TATTLER

MIAAMI—The Fabulous Kangaroos are on the move again. The Global tag team championship was recently captured from former titlists Barry Windham and Ron Bass by the latest incarnation of the Kangaroos, Don Kent and Johnny Heffernan.

Although they are managed in Florida by J.J. Dillon, the Kangaroos' contract is still officially owned and handled by Al Costello, one of the original Fabulous Kangaroos from when the team first debuted in



HEFFERNAN, DILLON, & KENT

1955. Dillon considers his business arrangement with Costello to be a major achievement in his managerial career.

"The Kangaroos are legendary," Dillon told *Sports Review Wrestling*. "Their heritage spans four decades, and there is so much skill and knowledge associated with the Kangaroo name, I just don't see where I can go wrong. I consider it an honor to be handling their matches here in Florida, and I hope the fans realize that this is yet another example of the scope of the managerial power and influence I wield. I'm putting the wrestling world on notice right now: 1983 is going to be the year of J.J. Dillon."

Considering the way The Kangaroos took the Global title so quickly, Dillon's expansion into Georgia, and his deathlock on the Florida wrestling scene, the unscrupulous manager may be right about 1983.

—Myron Roth

SAN ANTONIO, TX—Wrestling fans here are being treated to the excitement of the Polish Power, Ivan Putski.

Fresh from an extended stay
(Continued on page 52)

CORRESPONDENTS

Larry Cohen Chicago, Ill.	Kevin McCloud Boston, Mass.	George Hawkins Bangor, Me.
Warren Knowles Seattle, Wash.	Leroy Jackson Detroit, Mich.	Ed Remington Indianapolis, Ind.
Allison Corey New York, N.Y.	Danny Torres Los Angeles, Ca.	Diane Goh Honolulu, Hi.
Andre Camus Montreal, Canada	B.W. Foreman Atlanta, Ga.	James Washington Houston, Tex.
Buddy Ford St. Louis, Mo.	Paul Dreiser Pittsburgh, Pa.	John West Baltimore, Md.
Masanori Murikami Tokyo, Japan	Carl Salinger Richmond, Va.	Ellen Larsen Charlotte, N.C.
Andy Rankowski Portland, Ore.	Geoffrey York Toronto, Canada	Butch Gallagher San Francisco, Ca.
Myron Roth Miami, Fla.	Charles F. Amberson St. Paul, Minn.	Virginia W. Sloan Amarillo, Tex.
Clifford Douglas Denver, Colo.	Cedric Coleridge Sydney, Australia	Randy Swift Memphis, Tenn.
		Barry Simon Tampa, Fla.

Never before in this history of wrestling journalism have so many respected reporters been involved in so important a venture. The best wrestling correspondents from all over the world have been enlisted to report on the news behind the news. Every wrestling fan must consider this the most important column he can read!

The Inquiring Reporter

No one knows wrestling better than the fans.

Because of this, we're now giving these experts a forum for their views and opinions. Each month, we'll ask a controversial question and have the fans answer—no matter what those answers might be!

THE QUESTION:

"How do you feel after your favorite wrestler loses a match?"

THE ANSWERS:

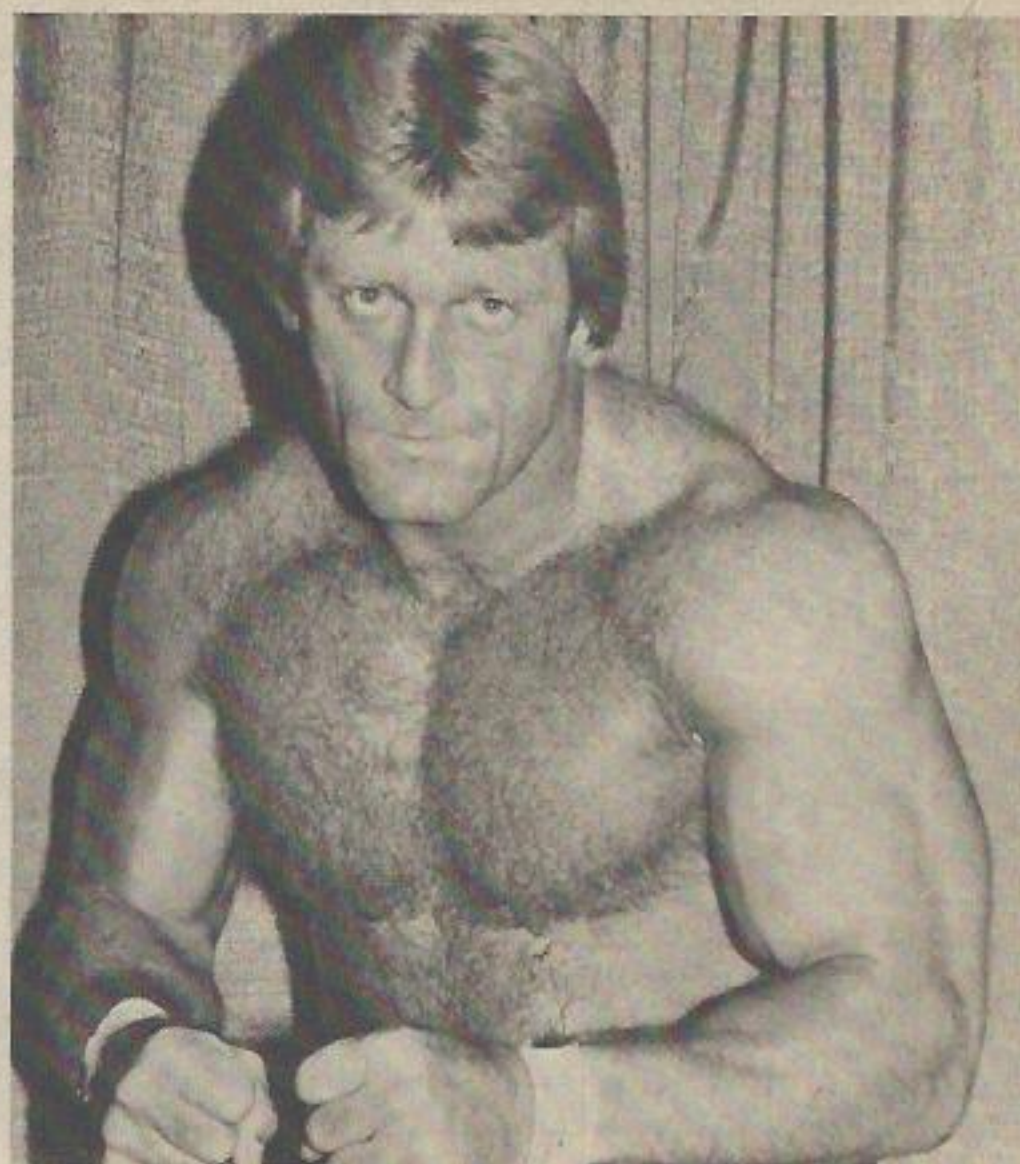
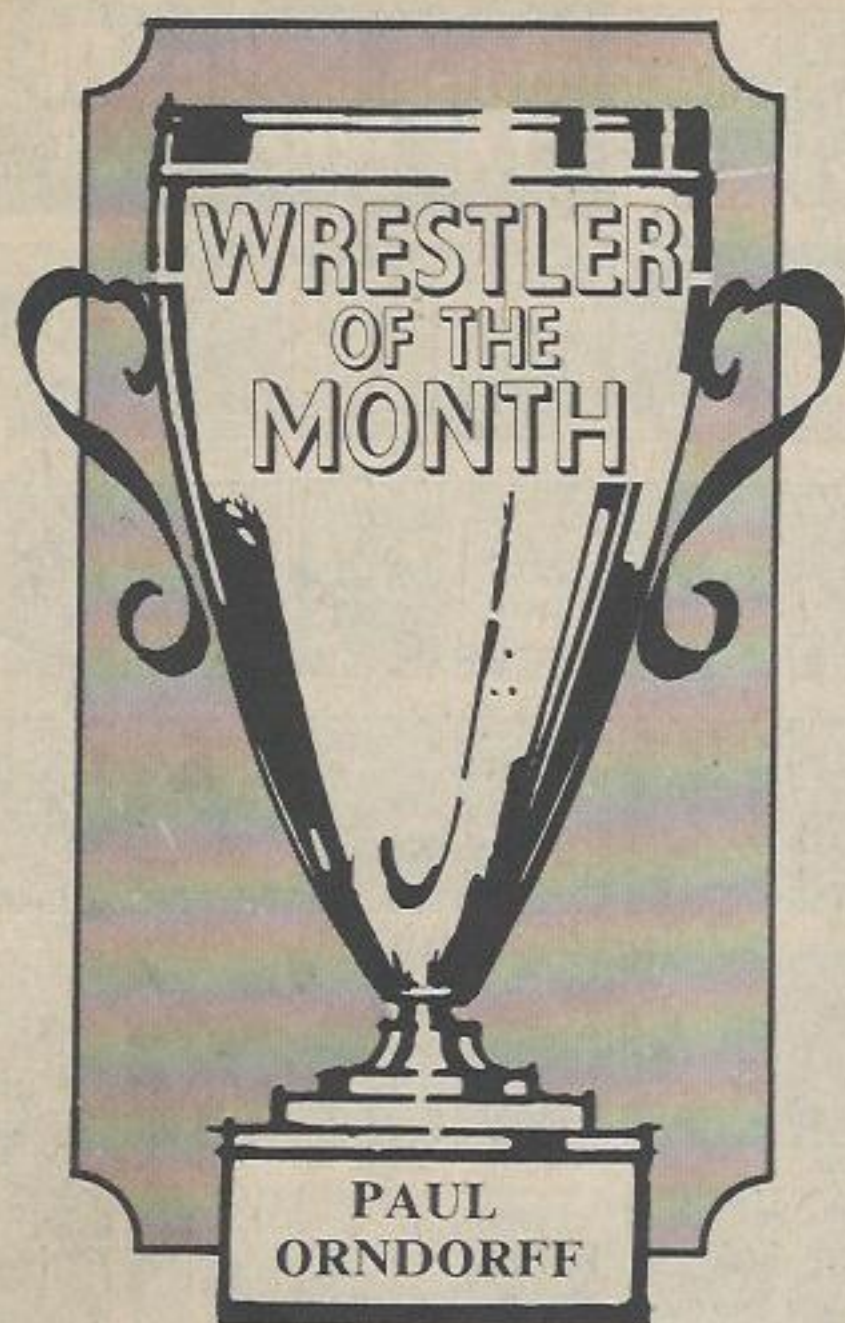
David Kane, Indianapolis, IN: "I get disgusted at first. You know, I pay good money to get into the arena, and I go there to see Bruiser win. I get pretty mad right after he loses, but you have to figure that he's only a human being. Also, it isn't like he went in there to lose. I think a lot of the fans take it too personally, and I guess I'm one of them. Once I think about it, though, I calm down."

Margaret Geddes, Washington, DC: "My favorite wrestler is Jimmy Snuka. Even before he split with Albano, I was a fan of his. I had never been a fan of a rule-breaker before, but there was something about his style that I liked. When I watched Ray Stevens and Albano bloody him up on TV, I almost died. It would have been awful if it were any wrestler, but my favorite was getting destroyed. I felt terrible for him. In fact, I called the TV station to see if I could find out what hospital he was in, but they didn't know."

(Continued on page 54)



Jimmy Snuka is helped onto a stretcher by Buddy Rogers. Seeing her favorite assaulted by Lou Albano and Ray Stevens upset Margaret Geddes of Washington, D.C., greatly.



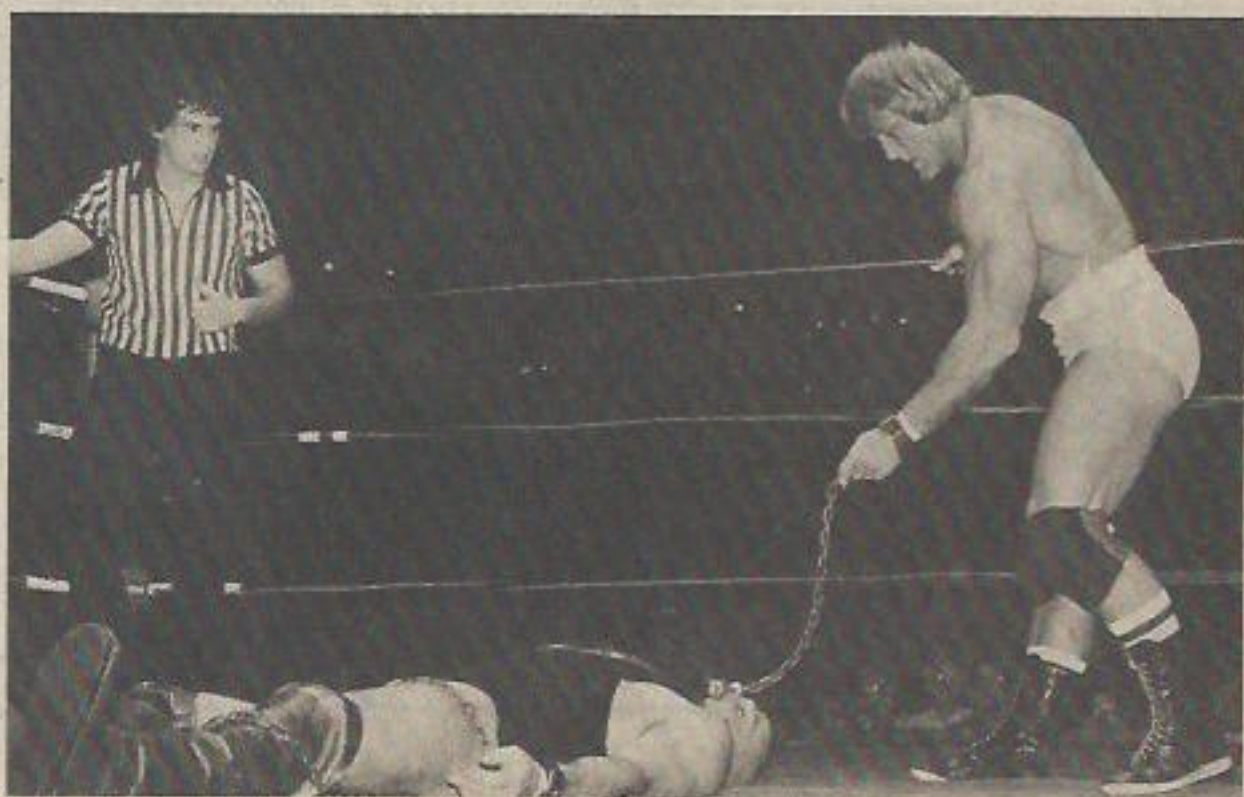
Muscular Paul Orndorff (above) is a man of strong will. He was determined to win the Georgia National title from Masked Superstar, and he did. He is equally determined to keep that title away from Ivan Koloff, even if it means wrestling in the brutal style matches to which the Russian is better suited (below).

PAUL ORNDORFF IS a man who should never be taken lightly.

When Paul Orndorff defeated Super Destroyer for the Georgia National heavyweight title on October 3, 1982, he promised the Georgia area fans that he would hold on to the title, dedicating his efforts to those very fans who have supported him for so long.

Orndorff battled valiantly as he defended the title again and again, but fate caught up with him and the other half of the Georgia masked terrors, Masked Superstar, defeated Orndorff and took the title on October 17.

It wasn't long before Orndorff was back in training, practicing maneuvers and honing his body to muscular perfection. He appeared on television again and again, talking of a match against Superstar scheduled for November 7, 1982. He said without any hesitation, "I will defeat Masked



Superstar for the title. That is a promise. I will not let my fans down."

As of press time, Paul Orndorff still wears the Georgia National belt he won from Masked Superstar.

In addition to his extremely heavy schedule of title defenses, Orndorff has been a primary force

in the current Georgia wars. He has provided a great deal of help to wrestlers like Tommy "Wildfire" Rich, Johnny Rich, "Hacksaw" Butch Reed, and Tom Pritchard in bringing Ivan Koloff and "Mad Dog" Buzz Sawyer under control.

Furthermore, he has renewed his promise to wrestling fans
(Continued on page 49)

TOP WRESTLE

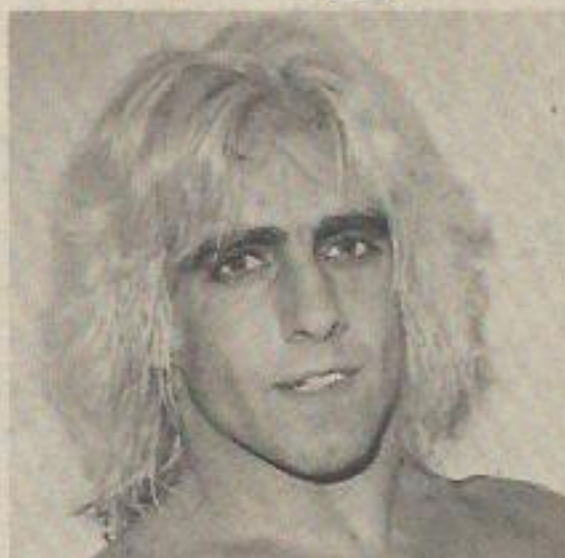
YOUR QUESTION

Do you have a question which concerns all of wrestling? Each month in **SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING**, the sport's top superstars will answer a question sent in by a reader. If you wish to have your question answered by the wrestlers, send it to:

ASK THE STARS
Sports Review Wrestling
Box 48
Rockville Centre, N.Y.
11571

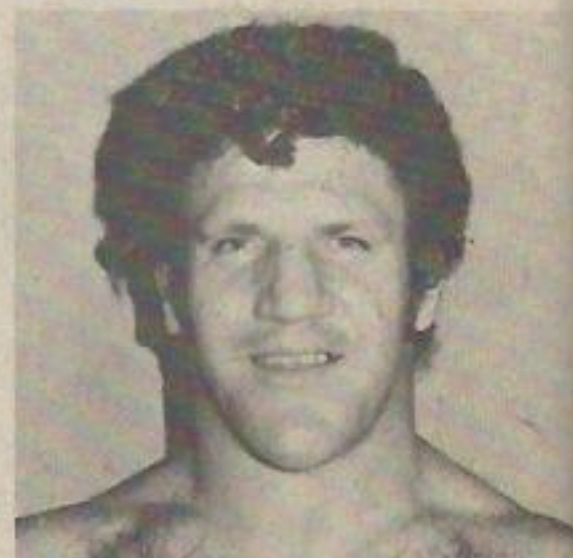
The "Question of the Month" is:
"What makes a man a champion?"

Submitted by:
Joel Karr,
Philadelphia,
Pennsylvania



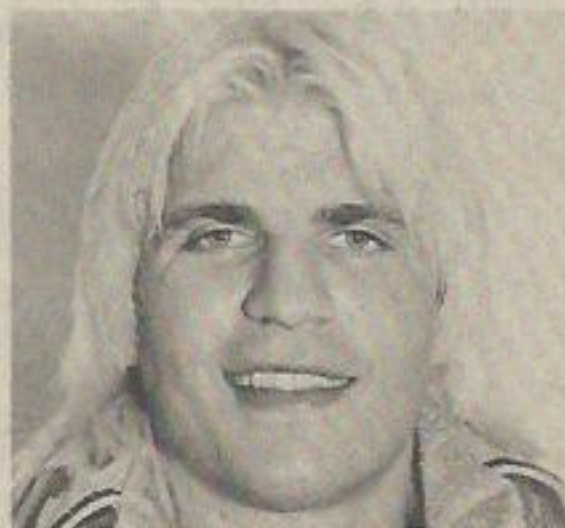
RIC FLAIR

"You have to be ready for anything at any time. You can't let your guard slip for a second. You can't trust anyone, because there are some shiftless people out there who will do anything to get my belt. No friends, no let up, no security... but I wouldn't give it up for anything. There will be time for all the rest of it later on."



BRUNO SAMMARTINO

"There are all kinds of things that make a man a champion, but one thing that really helps is having a manager who you can trust. He takes care of all the deals and arrangements so the wrestler can do what he does best, wrestle. I owe half of my championship years to Arnold Skoaland for all he did for me."



TOMMY RICH

"There are champions all over the place, not just in the wrestling ring, man. My daddy was a champion. Every day he went off to work, and he worked hard for all of us, and fed us, and put clothes on our backs, and gave us a roof over our heads. He was, and still is, my champion. I thank God every day for giving me a daddy who cared about me."



JIM BRUNZELL

"Determination. You have to get up every day and train; running, stretches, and then to the gym. After that, getting ready for the match, and then you wrestle at night and try to get to sleep at a decent hour. Every morning when get up sore and tired, I wonder why I do it, but I know why. Someday soon I will be world champion."

RS ANSWER OF THE MONTH



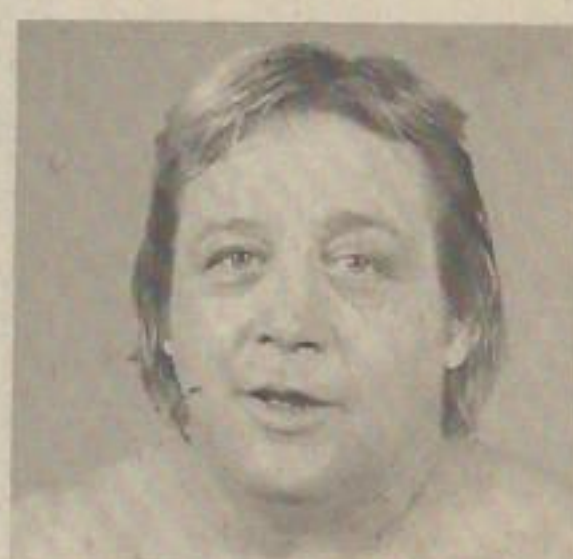
RICK MARTEL

"You can't be good at something unless you're enjoying what you're doing, and you can't be a champion unless you're good, so I guess you have to have some fun out there if you plan on being a champion. I love being in the ring, hearing all the fans rooting me on. Sure, I'd like a championship belt around my waist, but I'm wrestling for the fans almost as much as I am for myself."



DUSTY RHODES

"Like the song says, baby, 'You Gotta Have Heart.' If you get knocked down, you get up, brush yourself off, and go to it. If you get knocked down again, you get up twice as fast. 'I can't' are two words you'll never hear from a champion. You gotta keep goin', keep pluggin', keep tryin'. There is no tomorrow, that's what I think to myself, there is no tomorrow. It's now or never, man."



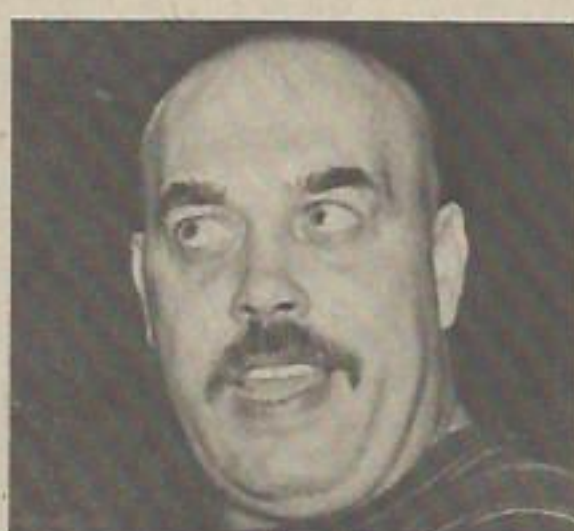
RAY STEVENS

"Being champion is okay. You get a belt, you make a lot of money, but I don't really care too much about it. What I really like is just going into a ring and busting someone's arm or piledriving them into the ground. The best is hearing some wimp's leg crack in half and knowing you did it. It's the best feeling in the world. Don't get me wrong, though, being champion is all right. The money is great."



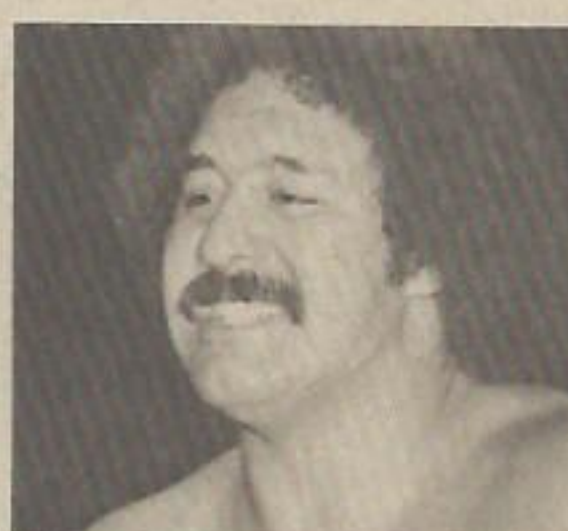
TERRY FUNK

"It's all politics, all of it. Flair, Backlund, Bockwinkel... they're all paper champions. The only way to win a title these days is to back into it, like Bockwinkel did, or play games with the promoters. I don't blame any of them, though. They know I can beat them, that's why they're running. That is why I have claimed the world's championship."



GARY HART

"Only the complete wrestler, the wrestler who knows the moves, the one with speed, strength, and enough brains to know what to do inside the ring can even aspire to a championship. Even a great manager like myself cannot lead a man to a title if he doesn't have these qualities."



MANNY FERNANDEZ

"Courage. It takes a lot of courage to climb through the ropes every night knowing that there's a guy on the other side of the ring waiting to destroy you and take your belt. Anyone who holds a title belt knows that feeling, and it's not a good one."

The Night They Bo

YOU DON'T ATTACK a national institution. Unless you're Dusty Rhodes and have something to prove.

"I'll take the risks," said Rhodes, frowning. "I've always taken chances and been out front on issues. I've never shied away from a fight. Don't matter to me where it is or who it's with. If someone wants to mess, I'll mess. If he doesn't have guts and needs to do it in his own backyard, I'll mess there."

"That's why I didn't think twice about takin' on Inoki," said Rhodes. "You don't make it in this business by playin' safe. I knew what I was up against. I knew Inoki would have his people in back of him and I'd be skewed if I did anything they thought was wrong."

"Didn't bother me then and doesn't bother me now," said Rhodes, shrugging.

Japanese fans have always adored Rhodes. His aggressive style and responsiveness to the audience earns him plaudits across the land. Yet fans could not side with Rhodes against Inoki. That would be heresy. Rhodes knew that. But he had something to prove.

"Inoki made some remarks," said Rhodes, his expression hardening. "He said things about American wrestlers that, well, I didn't like."

Such as?

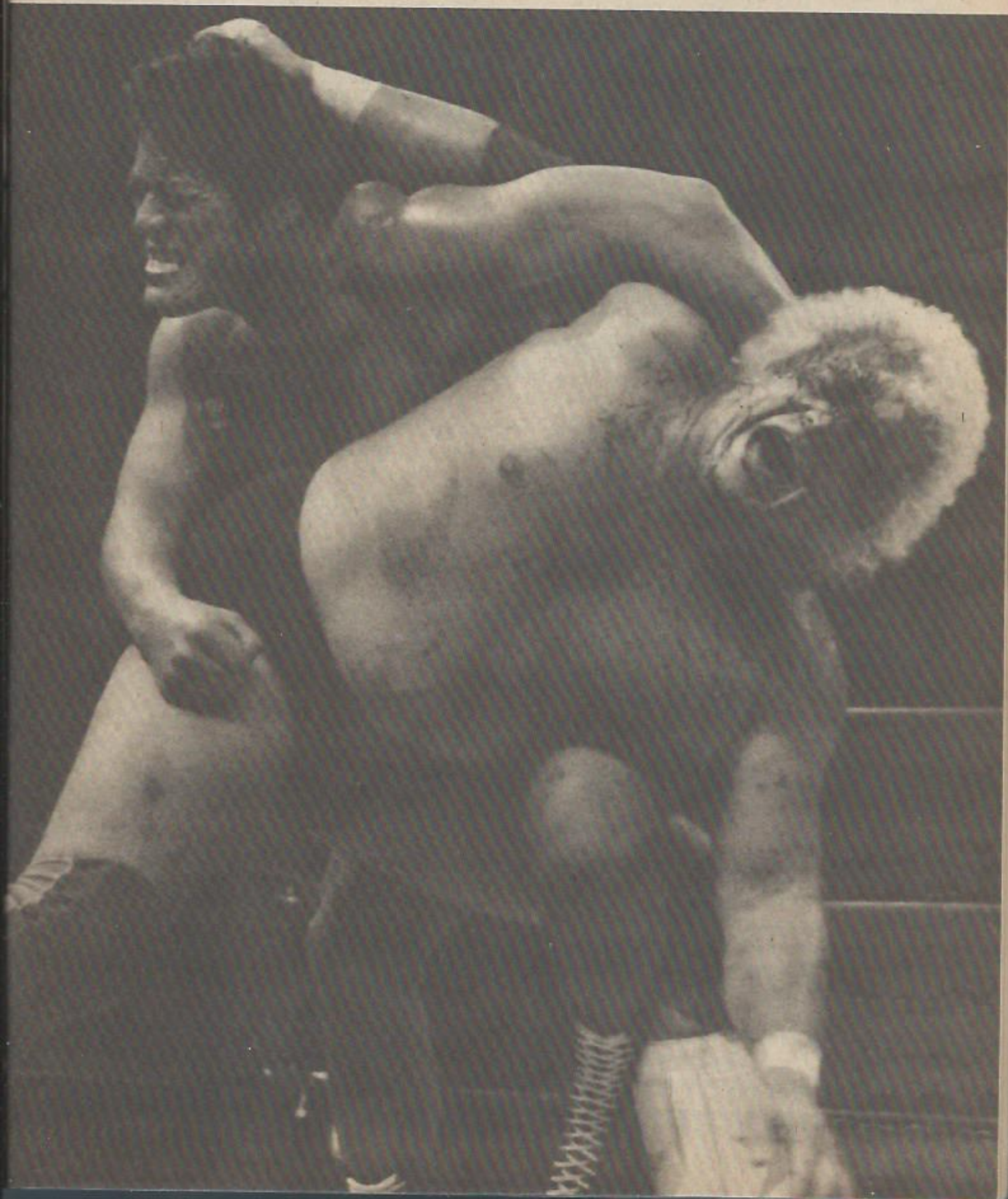
"He puts down our trainin' methods," snapped Dusty, his anger growing. "He said we weren't Spartan in our discipline, that Americans were cowards and run at the first sign of trouble."

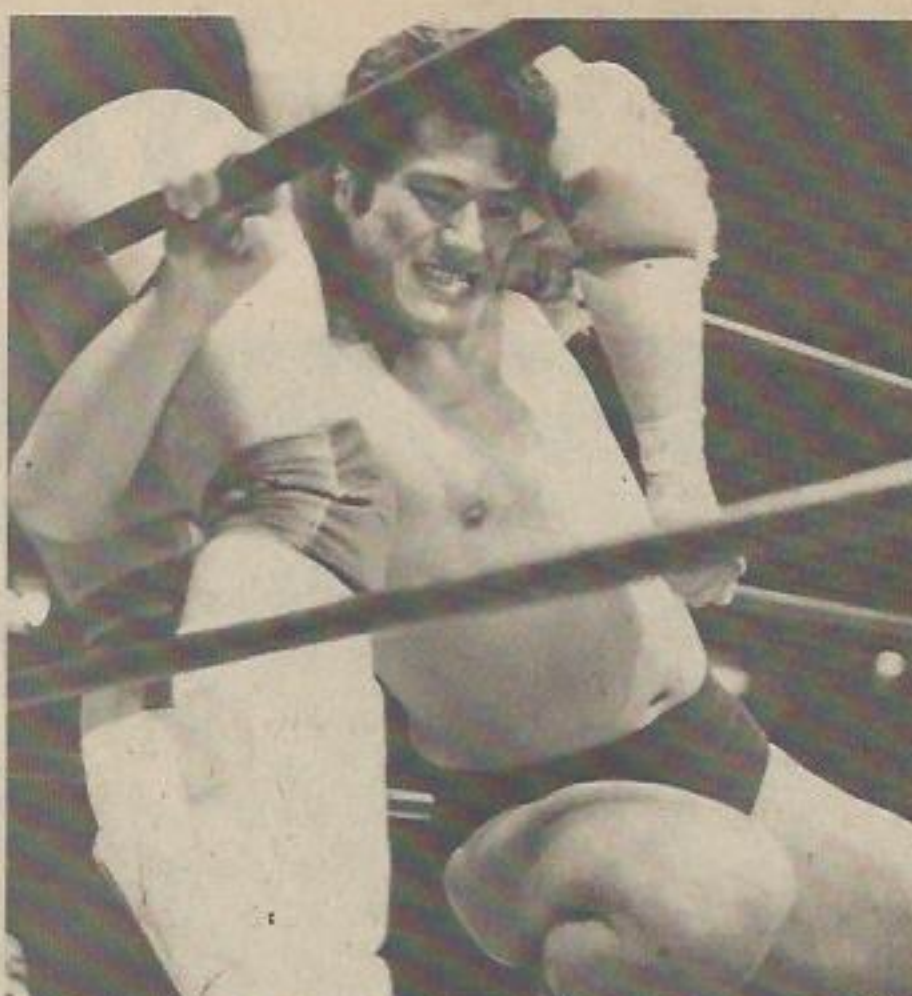
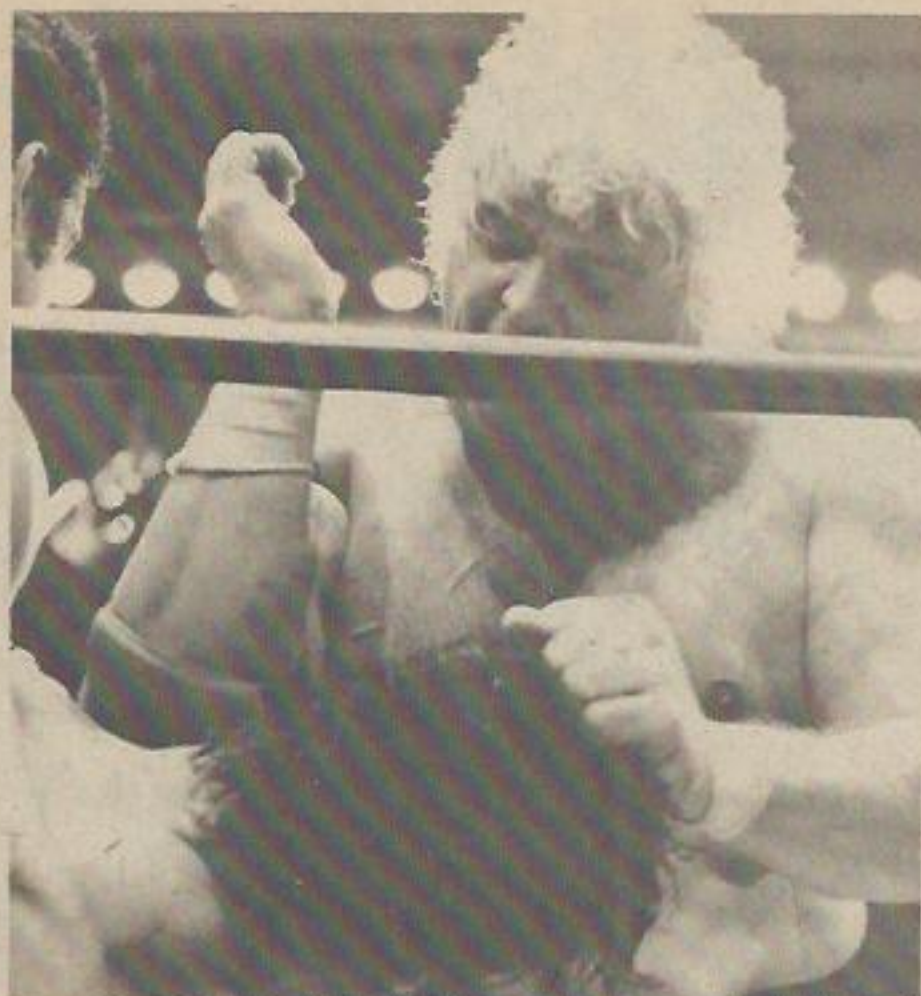
"When I first heard that statement, I was real shocked," said Rhodes. "Inoki is fair and

HOW THE AMERICAN DREAM BECAME AN INTERNATIONAL NIGHTMARE

Dusty Rhodes has heard the boos before. However, these boos were different. They cross an ocean and threaten to grow into an incident of international proportions

ood Dusty Rhodes:





Dusty Rhodes rubs his powerful right elbow into Inoki's neck (above left). Inoki tries to lift himself but Dusty continues to throw punches while covering him with his torso (above right). Rhodes heard the boos when he bodyslammed Inoki outside the ring (below).



honest. I couldn't understand why he'd say such a thing. So I called to discuss this little matter.

"Inoki wouldn't talk to me, wouldn't say a damn thing to me. I was real hurt. I thought we were on the same side. I thought we were allies. Once I realized we weren't, well, I decided to persuade Inoki to think otherwise," said Rhodes.

Rhodes expected fan disapproval. Yet he is confident eventually he will become a big favorite.

"Right now, the fans are

confused. They don't understand my philosophy. They don't see what I'm trying to get across," said Rhodes. "Fans tend to lump you into one of two categories. They gotta allow for people like me who don't fit into any niche.

"I'm tough and aggressive. Sometimes I can brawl and bluster with the best of them. Well, I am the best of them. But I can also wrestle scientifically. I'm versatile. Fans gotta allow for special types like the American Dream, who can do it all."

Going against the grain of fan sentiment by wrestling Inoki took guts. Yet this was the perfect forum for a demonstration of Rhodes' philosophy.

"Fighting favorites pumps me up, gives me added inspiration. I don't like hearin' fans put me down. My regard for the fans is well known. But you gotta take a stand," said Dusty.

"Inoki bad-mouthed me and my people. I know how popular he is in Japan. But his popularity can't stop me from

fightin' for what I believe in. Even if I lost, I wouldn't stop crusadin' for my belief, for speakin' out and defendin' what I see as the right things in life.

"People criticize me for always talkin' and runnin' at the mouth. They say I got too many opinions and should learn to keep my big mouth shut. I can't. If I see wrong, I try and right it.

"So I caused some controversy in Japan. I know. How could I prevent that? Only way is for me to shut up about injustices. I won't. Inoki had to be taught a lesson. He had to see that you don't make cracks without expectin' at least one person to stand up for what he feels is right," continued Rhodes.

Rhodes displayed an extraordinary determination against Inoki.

"I was ready for some heavy duty wrestlin'," said Rhodes. "When I'm psyched and ready for action, there's no stoppin' me."

Not even the fans?

"Nope. A man's gotta do, what a man's gotta do," said Rhodes. □

SCRAPBOOK

Compiled By Stu Saks

JANUARY/ FEBRUARY 1968

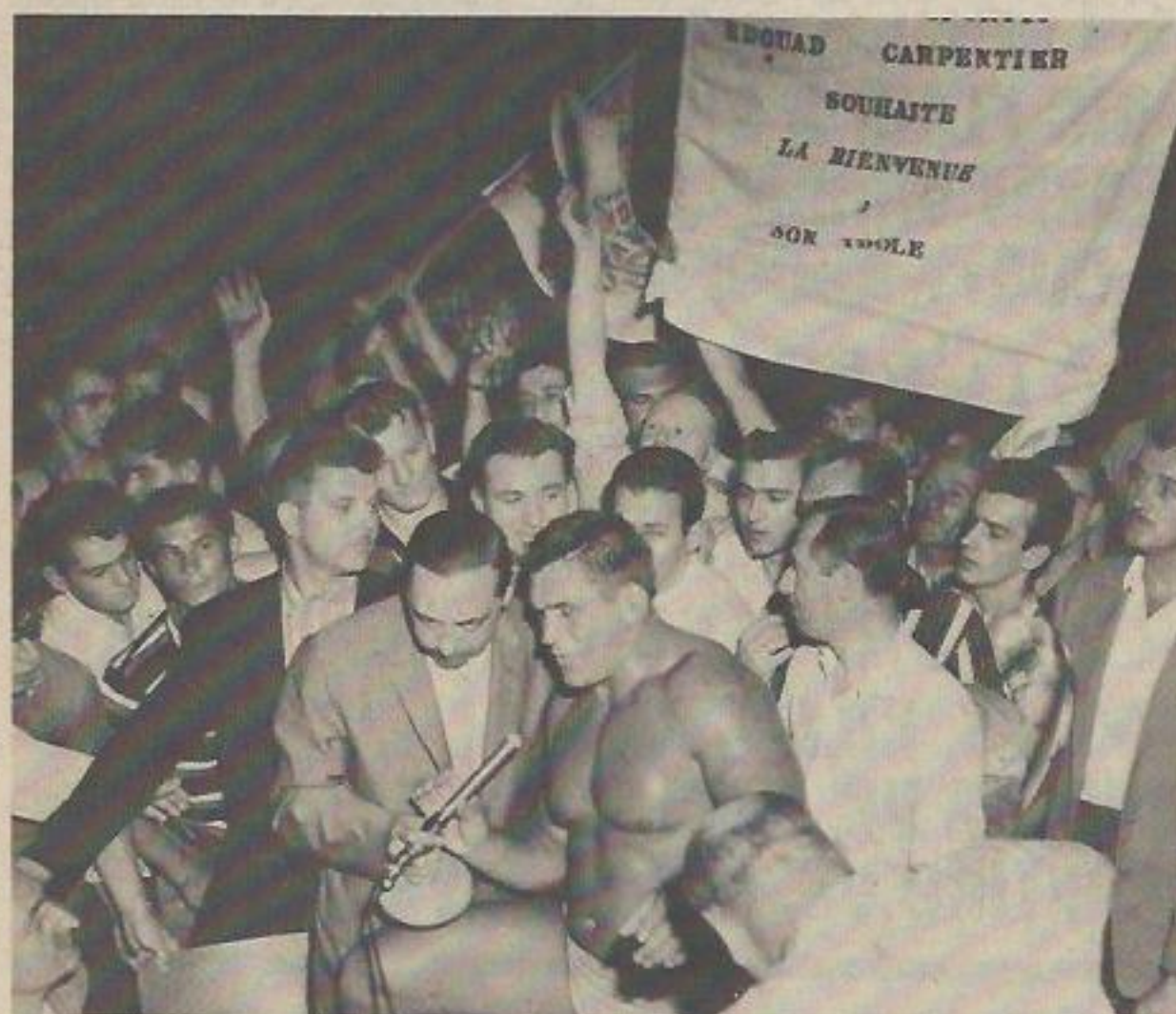
The fans voted high-flying Edouard Carpentier the "Most Popular Wrestler" . . . A bloody brawl pitting the tag team of Pepper Gomez and Ray Stevens against Cyclone Negro and Pat Patterson triggered the worst riot in the history of the San Francisco Cow Palace . . . Al Costello actively sought a replacement for Roy Heffernan to reform The Fabulous Kan-

garos . . . Bulldog Brower and Johnny Powers feuded in Toronto . . . Greek star Spiros Spiros Arion announced his intention to add 35 pounds to his 265-pound frame to add more strength . . . Johnny Valentine lost his U.S. title to Asiatic champion Tiger Jeet Singh, who had dropped 50 pounds in preparation for the match . . . Young Terry Funk became involved in the first major feud of his career, against Japanese strongman Hiro Matsuda . . . Dewey Robertson, from Kitchener, Ontario, was being touted as the most promising rookie in Canada. Said Robertson's press release: "If you haven't seen Dewey in the flesh, just think of Rock Hudson and you'll have a pretty good



Fast-rising Dewey Robertson was being compared in looks to movie star Rock Hudson. Robertson was far more concerned about his wrestling career than his press coverage.

idea of what he looks like" . . . Sweet Daddy Siki formed a singing group called "The Irresistibles" . . . Youngster Les Thatcher began a feud with veteran Man Mountain Cannon. Les surprised everyone by handing Cannon several brutal beatings . . . Giant Baba began a tour of the Hawaiian Islands . . . Mid-Atlantic fans hoped George Becker and Johnny Weaver would rid the area of the hated J.C. Dykes and his Masked Infernos . . . Tim "Mr. Wrestling" Woods took Bobby Shane under his wing as Bobby became involved in a bitter rivalry with El Mongol . . . Bob Orton Sr. and Iron Mike DiBiase pulled a sneak-attack on Mighty Igor in Sioux City, Iowa. Igor was hospitalized with several cracked ribs but vowed to get revenge . . . Tag team partners Harley Race and Larry Hennig demanded that the press refer to them

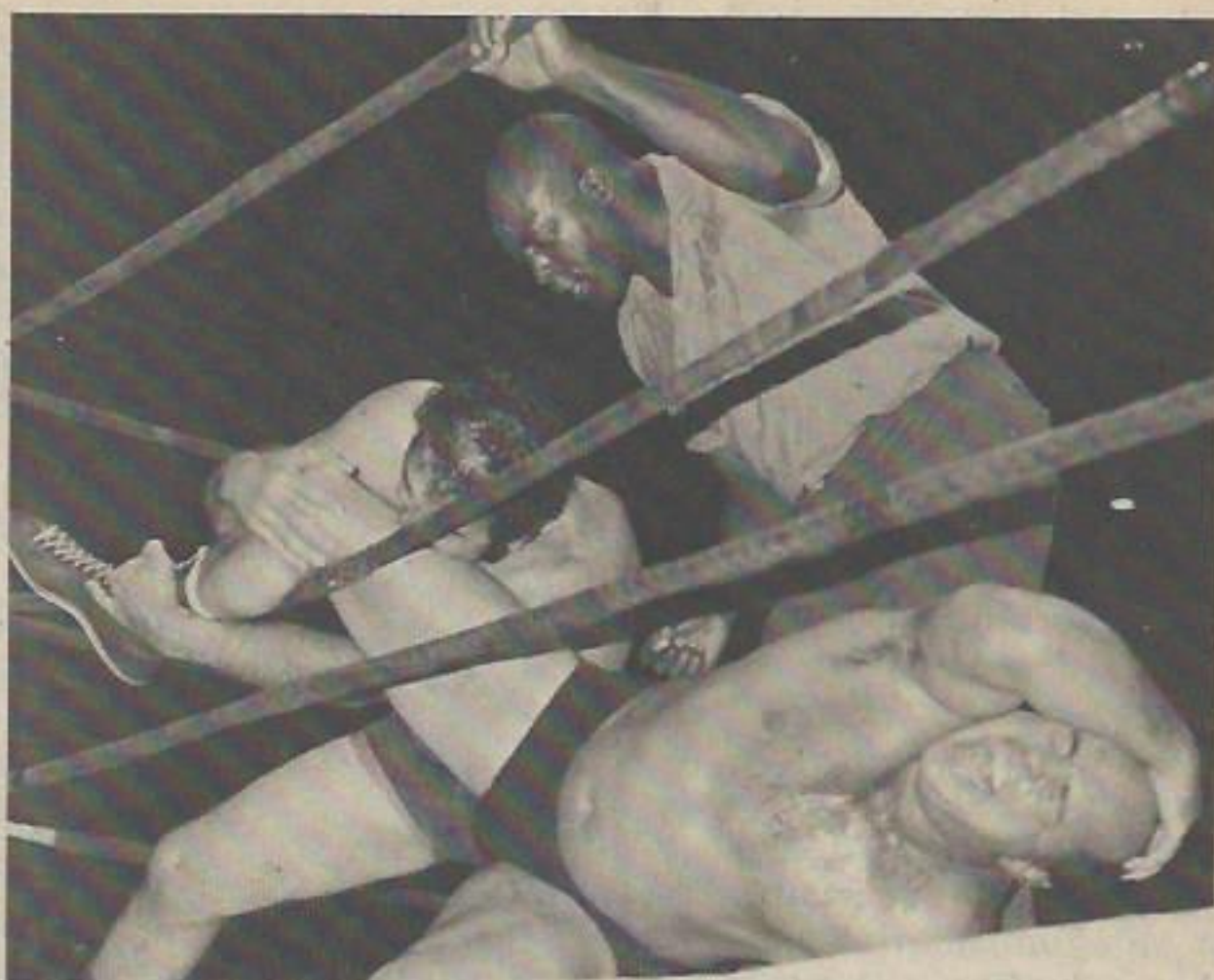


Edouard Carpentier is interviewed on Montreal TV as fans hold up a banner that translates to read, "We Welcome Our Hero." Carpentier was voted the "Most Popular Wrestler."

as "Handsome" and "Pretty Boy," respectively. NWA RATINGS: 1-Gene Kiniski; 2-Tiger Jeet Singh; 3-Johnny Valentine; 4-Eddie Graham; 5-Lou Thesz; 6-Fritz Von Erich; 7-Wilbur Snyder; 8-Bulldog Brower; 9-Bob Orton Sr.; 10-Pat O'Connor. WWF RATINGS: 1-Bruno Sammartino; 2-Gorilla Monsoon; 3-Hans Mortier; 4-Spiros Arion; 5-Edouard Carpentier; 6-Miguel Perez; 7-Arnold Skoaland; 8-Bobo Brazil; 9-Dr. Bill Miller; 10-Luke Graham. AWA RATINGS: 1-Verne Gagne; 2-The Sheik; 3-Larry Hennig; 4-Bruiser; 5-Wilbur Snyder; 6-Crusher; 7-Mad Dog Vachon; 8-Doug Gilbert; 9-Reg Parks; 10-Blackjack Lanza. TAG TEAMS: 1-Bruiser & Crusher; 2-The Assassins; 3-Pepper Gomez & Pedro Morales; 4-Larry Hennig & Harley Race; 5-George & Sandy Scott; 6-The Kentuckians; 7-Kenji Shibuya & Mitsu Arawkawa; 8-Waldo & Fritz Von Erich; 9-John & Chris Tolos; 10-George Becker & Johnny Weaver.

JANUARY/ FEBRUARY 1973

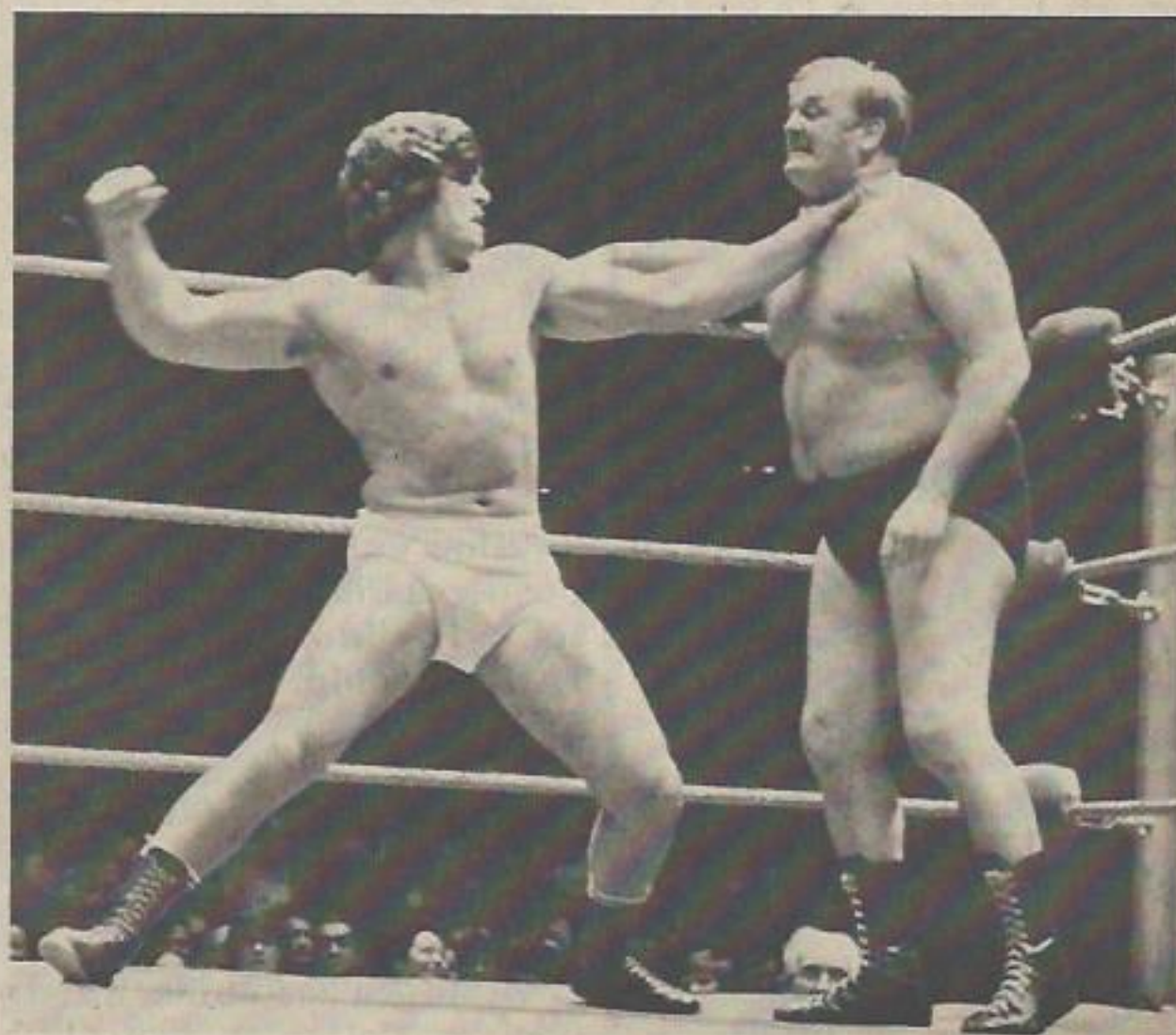
Tony Garea was voted 1972's WWF "Rookie of the Year" by the fans . . . Bruno Sammartino, making a rare TV appearance, won by disqualification against Mr. Fuji when the Japanese received outside help from his WWF tag team championship partner, Prof. Toru Tanaka. Arnold Skoaland, Chief Jay Strongbow, and



Tenth-rated Blackjack Lanza sinks his teeth in the leg of AWA champion Verne Gagne during a match in Chicago. After the referee ordered Lanza to break, the champion came back to score an impressive victory.

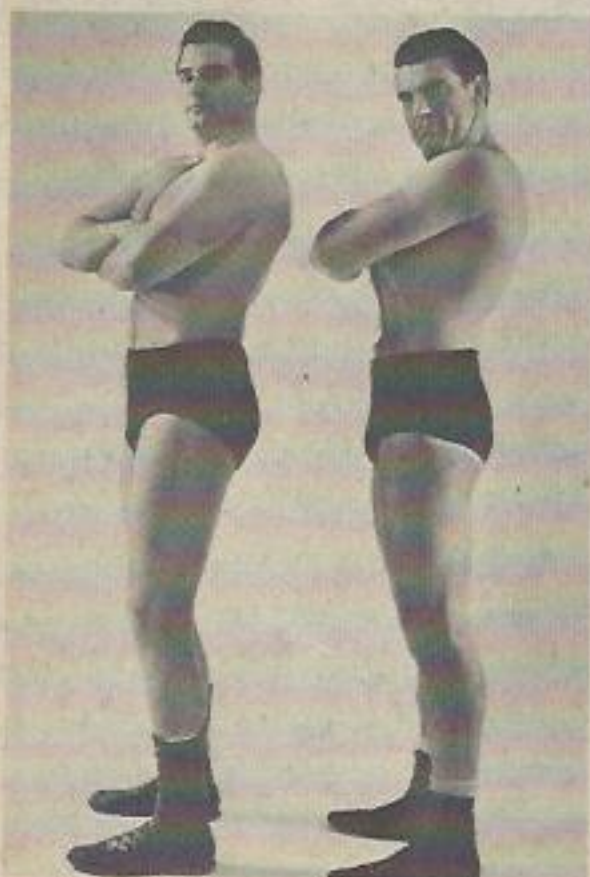
Manuel Soto came to Bruno's aid . . . A big upset occurred in Cincinnati when Luis Martinez and Tony Parisi won the National Wrestling

Federation tag team title from the Fargo brothers. After the loss, the Fargos were brought to Texas by manager J.C. Dykes, where



Tony Garea, setting up veteran Frank Valois for a right hand during one of his early Madison Square Garden appearances, was voted 1972's "Rookie of the Year" by the WWF fans.

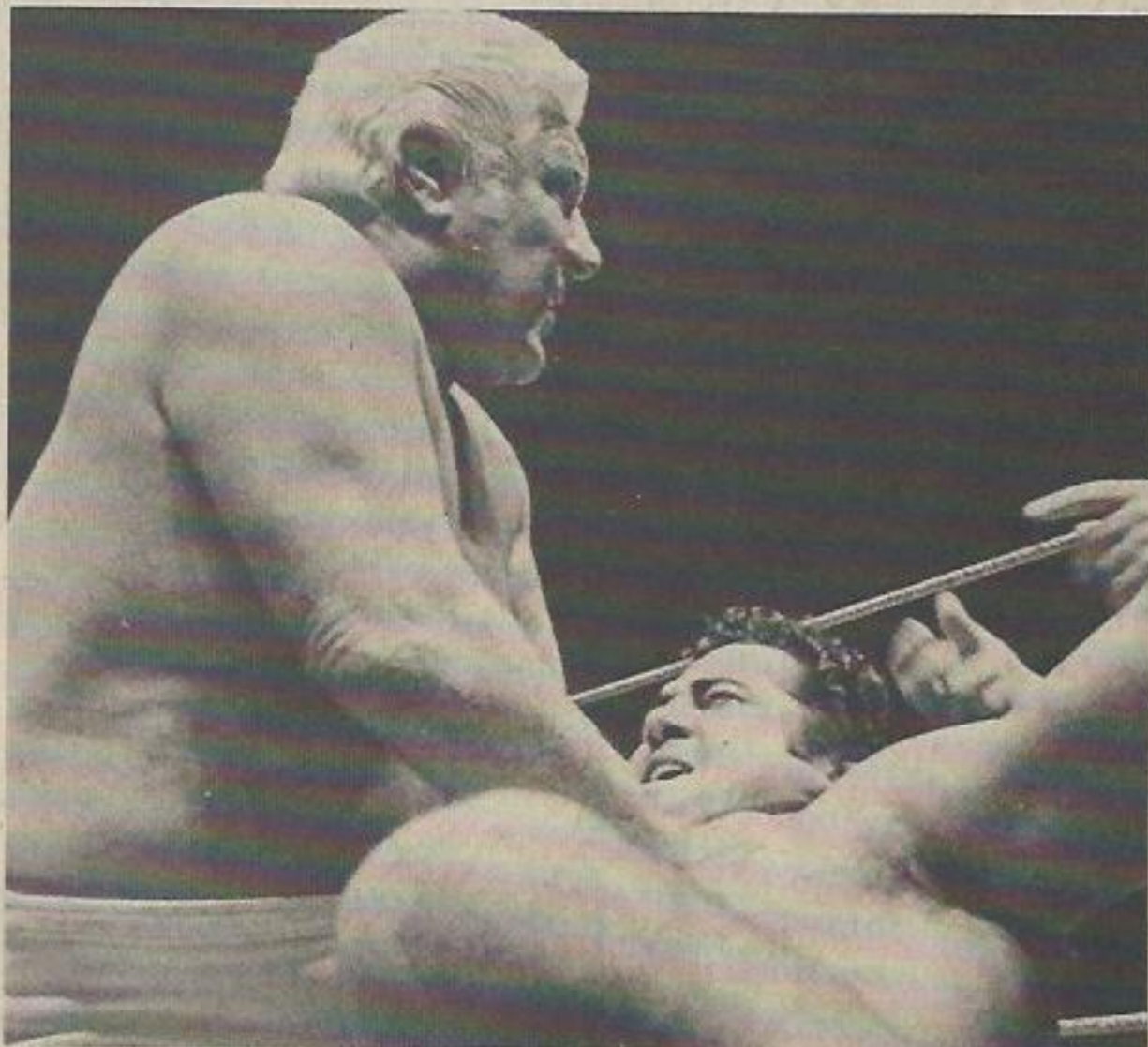
they captured the Western States tag team belts from Lord Al Hays and Nick Kozak . . . Jacques Rougeau won a 15-man elimination tournament to crown a new NWF heavyweight champion. The title was declared vacant when champion Johnny Valentine did not defend the belt within the required three-week period . . . Ivan Putski won an elimination tournament over 12 other wrestlers in east Texas, including Fred Curry, Jose Lothario, Johnny Valentine, Bobby Duncum, and the Missouri Mauler . . . Victor Rivera won a disqualification verdict over The Sheik to retain his Americas title in Los Angeles . . . Rivera also won the fourth annual Los Angeles 22-Man Battle Royal and \$11,000 when he forced Cyclone Negro to submit to his abdominal stretch . . . A scheduled TV match between WWF champion Pedro Morales and Fred Blassie had to be scrubbed because of an apparent injury to Blassie's arm.



Mark Lewin (left) and Don Curtis, one of the most outstanding tag teams of the 1960s, reunited.

Blassie and his manager, Lou Albano, came into the ring with a forged doctor's note stating that Fred was unable to wrestle. As Pedro turned around to leave the ring, Blassie ripped off his sling and he and Albano ambushed the unsuspecting champion . . . Lou

. . . NWA RATINGS: 1-Dory Funk Jr.; 2-The Sheik; 3-Victor Rivera; 4-Jack Brisco; 5-Pat Patterson; 6-The Great Mephisto; 7-Mil Mascaras; 8-Pampero Firpo; 9-Terry Funk; 10-Rufus R. Jones. WWF RATINGS: 1-Pedro Morales; 2-Bruno Sammartino; 3-King Curtis; 4-



Following the TV incident in which Fred Blassie and manager Lou Albano attacked Pedro Morales from behind, the WWF champion demanded to meet Blassie at Madison Square Garden. Pedro had to overcome one of the most determined—and vicious—challenges of his career to retain the championship.

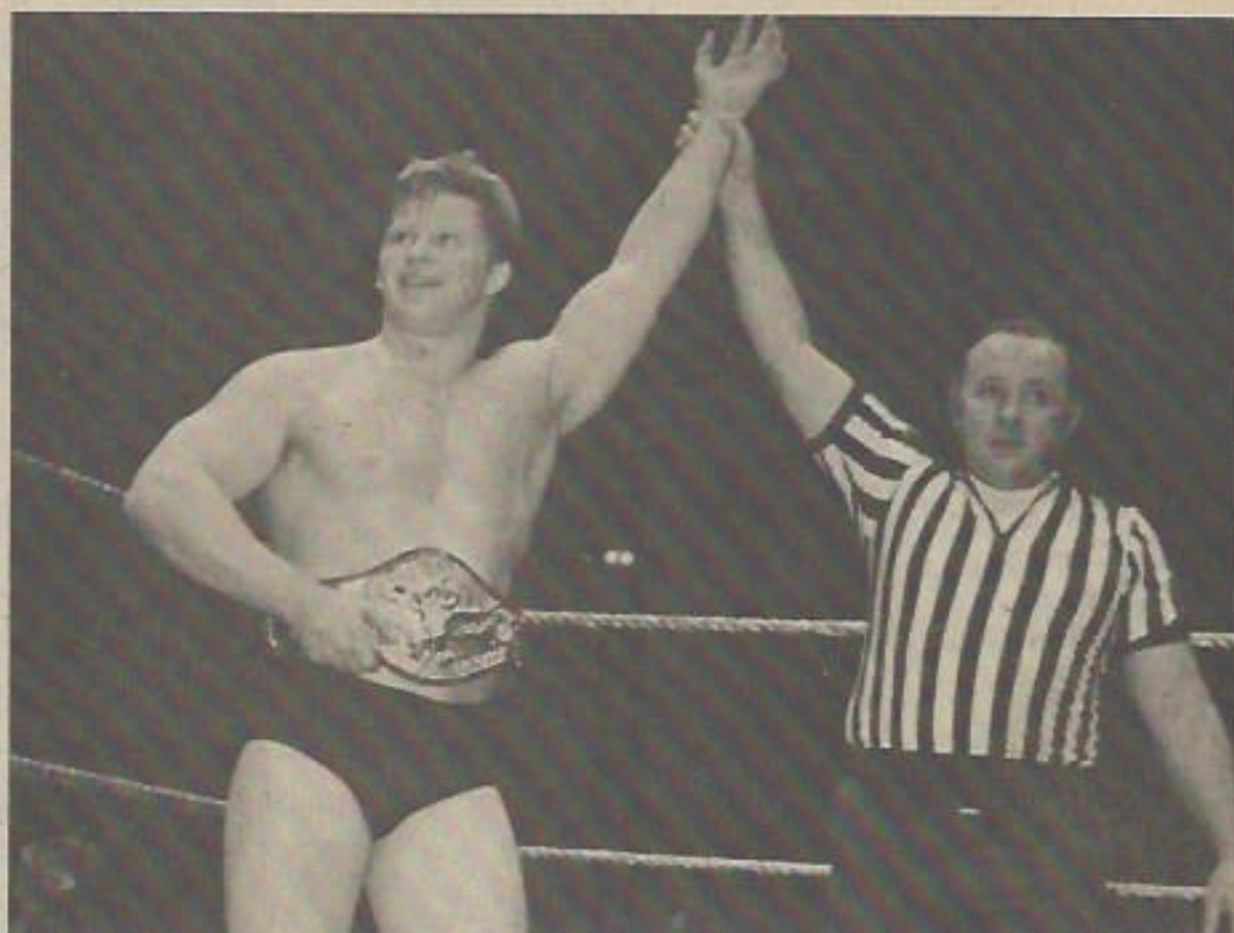
Albano's most unusual wrestler to date, Moondog Mayne, showed the world he could chew glass and swallow goldfish, but he was unsuccessful in several bids to win Morales' WWF championship . . . Mark Lewin and Don Curtis, one of the 1960s' top tag teams, reunited . . . Special police had to be called in to break up a brawl between Superstar Graham and Billy Robinson in Winnipeg . . . Robinson and Wahoo McDaniel won by disqualification over The Outlaws, Dusty Rhodes and Dick Murdoch, in Milwaukee

Moondog Mayne; 5-Fred Blassie; 6-Ray Stevens; 7-Chief Jay Strongbow; 8-Black Gordman; 9-Sonny King; 10-Prof. Tanaka. AWA RATINGS: 1-Verne Gagne; 2-Billy Robinson; 3-Bruiser; 4-Crusher; 5-Superstar Graham; 6-Ivan Koloff; 7-Wahoo McDaniel; 8-Dr. X; 9-Dick Murdoch; 10-Ken Patera. TAG TEAMS: 1-Prof. Tanaka & Mr. Fuji; 2-Kurt Von Hess & Karl Von Shotz; 3-Bruiser & Crusher; 4-Ray Stevens & Nick Bockwinkel; 5-Blackjack Mulligan & Blackjack Lanza; 6-Dick Murdoch & Dusty Rhodes; 7-

The Fargos; 8-Goliath & Black Gordman; 9-The Vachon Brothers; 10-Johnny Weaver & Nelson Royal.

JANUARY/ FEBRUARY 1978

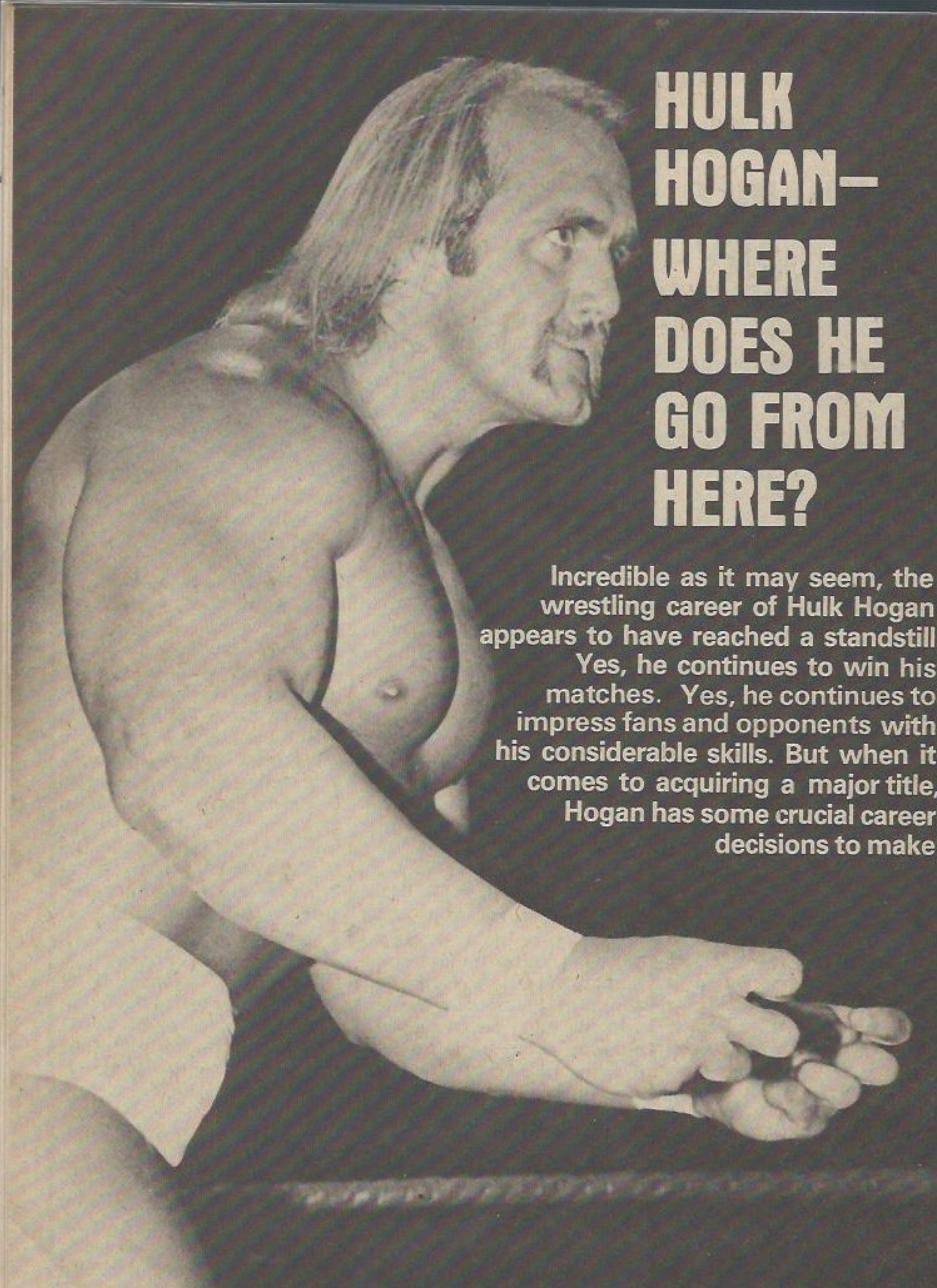
Bob Backlund defeated Superstar Graham on February 22 to win the WWF heavyweight championship. After a rugged battle, Backlund executed his atomic spinecrusher and covered Graham for the pin at the 14:51 mark. In the excitement created by the 23,000 fans at Madison Square Garden, referee Jack Lotz did not notice that Graham's foot was draped across the ropes. Despite the protests of Graham and his manager, The Grand Wizard, the decision stood . . . Dick Murdoch captured the Missouri State title from Ted DiBiase . . . Florida fans were dismayed over what appeared to be a brewing feud between Jack and Jerry Brisco and U.S. tag team champions Steve Keirn and Mike Graham . . . Keirn failed in his attempt to wrestle the NWA title away from Harley Race when both men were counted out of the ring . . . Andre the Giant won an 11-man Battle Royal in Tacoma, Washington . . . In what they called their greatest victory, Greg Gagne and Jim Brunzell successfully defended their AWA tag team title against Jim and John Valiant . . . Nelson Royal used a series of



Bob Backlund tries on the WWF championship belt for the first time after defeating Superstar Graham at Madison Square Garden. Referee Jack Lotz, raising the new champion's arm, failed to notice Graham's leg on the ropes when he made his three-count.

punishing backbreakers to defend his NWA junior heavyweight championship against Jimmy Golden . . . The Mongolian Stomper reigned as Southeastern heavyweight champion . . . Don Muraco eliminated Dean Ho to win a \$25,000 18-man Battle Royal in San Francisco . . . Rick Steamboat lost his composure and was disqualified in his title match with U.S. champion Blackjack Mulligan . . . Former two-time WWF champion Bruno Sammartino, in retirement since losing his title to Superstar Graham 10 months earlier, hinted that he would be making a comeback . . . Verne Gagne, who most observers agreed was in the best shape of his life, moved into the number one challenger's position for Nick Bockwinkel's AWA belt . . . Bobo Brazil and his new partner, Tiger Conway Jr., issued a challenge to NWA tag team champions Ric Flair and Greg Valentine . . . NWA

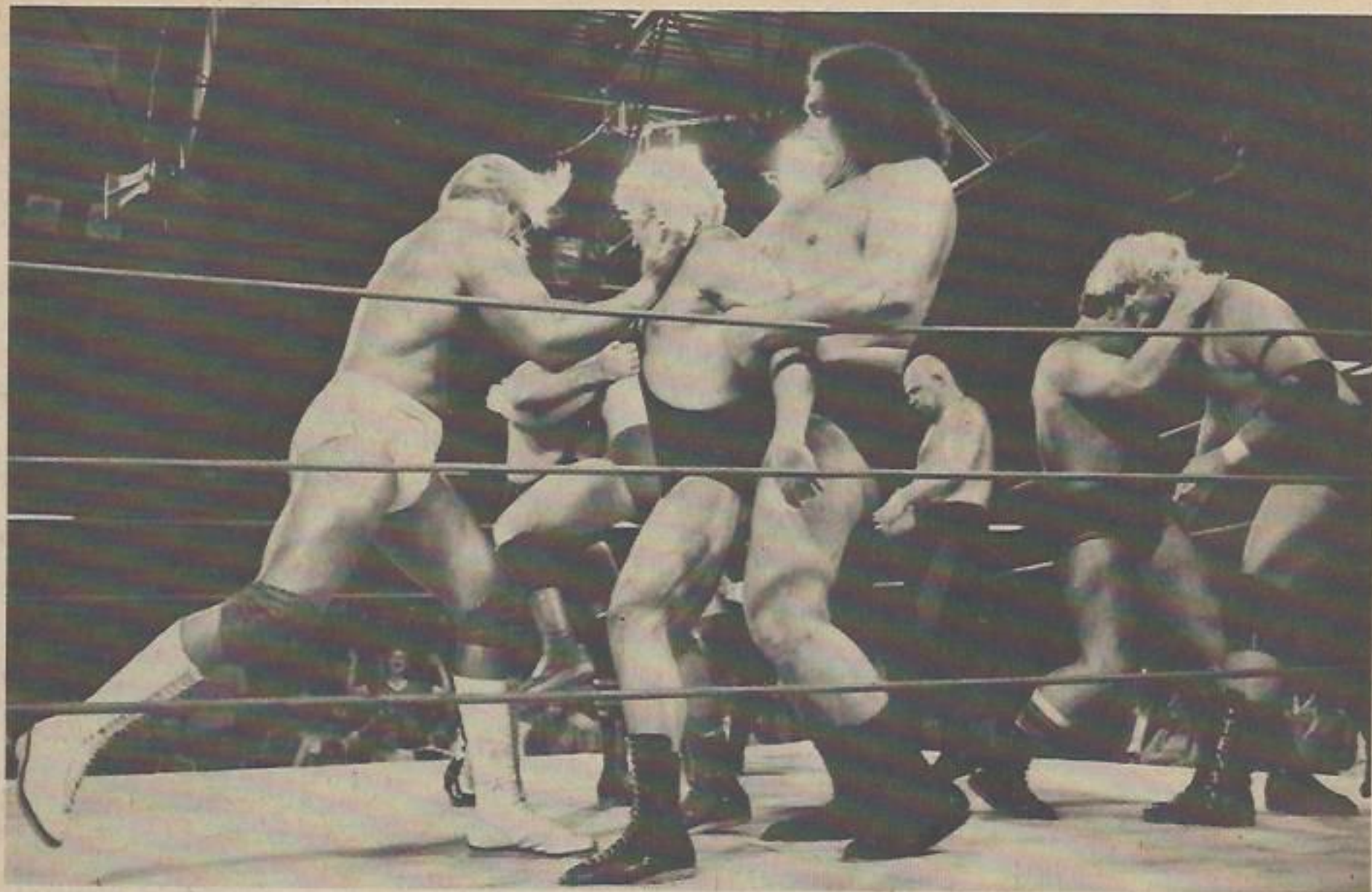
RATINGS: 1-Harley Race; 2-Dusty Rhodes; 3-Ric Flair; 4-Dory Funk Jr.; 5-Paul Jones; 6-Blackjack Mulligan; 7-Ivan Koloff; 8-Rocky Johnson; 9-Terry Funk; 10-Jack Brisco. **WWF RATINGS:** 1-Bob Backlund; 2-Superstar Graham; 3-Dusty Rhodes; 4-Spiros Arion; 5-Mil Mascaras; 6-Ken Patera; 7-Luke Graham; 8-Chief Jay Strongbow; 9-Peter Maivia; 10-Stan Stasiak. **AWA RATINGS:** 1-Nick Bockwinkel; 2-Verne Gagne; 3-Ray Stevens; 4-Billy Robinson; 5-Larry Hennig; 6-Pat Patterson; 7-Cowboy Bob Orton; 8-King Kong Mosca; 9-Jim Brunzell; 10-Super Destroyer. **TAG TEAMS:** 1-Ric Flair & Greg Valentine; 2-Steve Keirn & Mike Graham; 3-Greg Gagne & Jim Brunzell; 4-Mr. Saito & Ivan Koloff; 5-Prof. Tanaka & Mr. Fuji; 6-Dominic DeNucci & Dino Bravo; 7-Ray Stevens & Pat Patterson; 8-Paul Jones & Rick Steamboat; 9-Larry Zbyszko & Tony Garea; 10-The Valiant Brothers. □



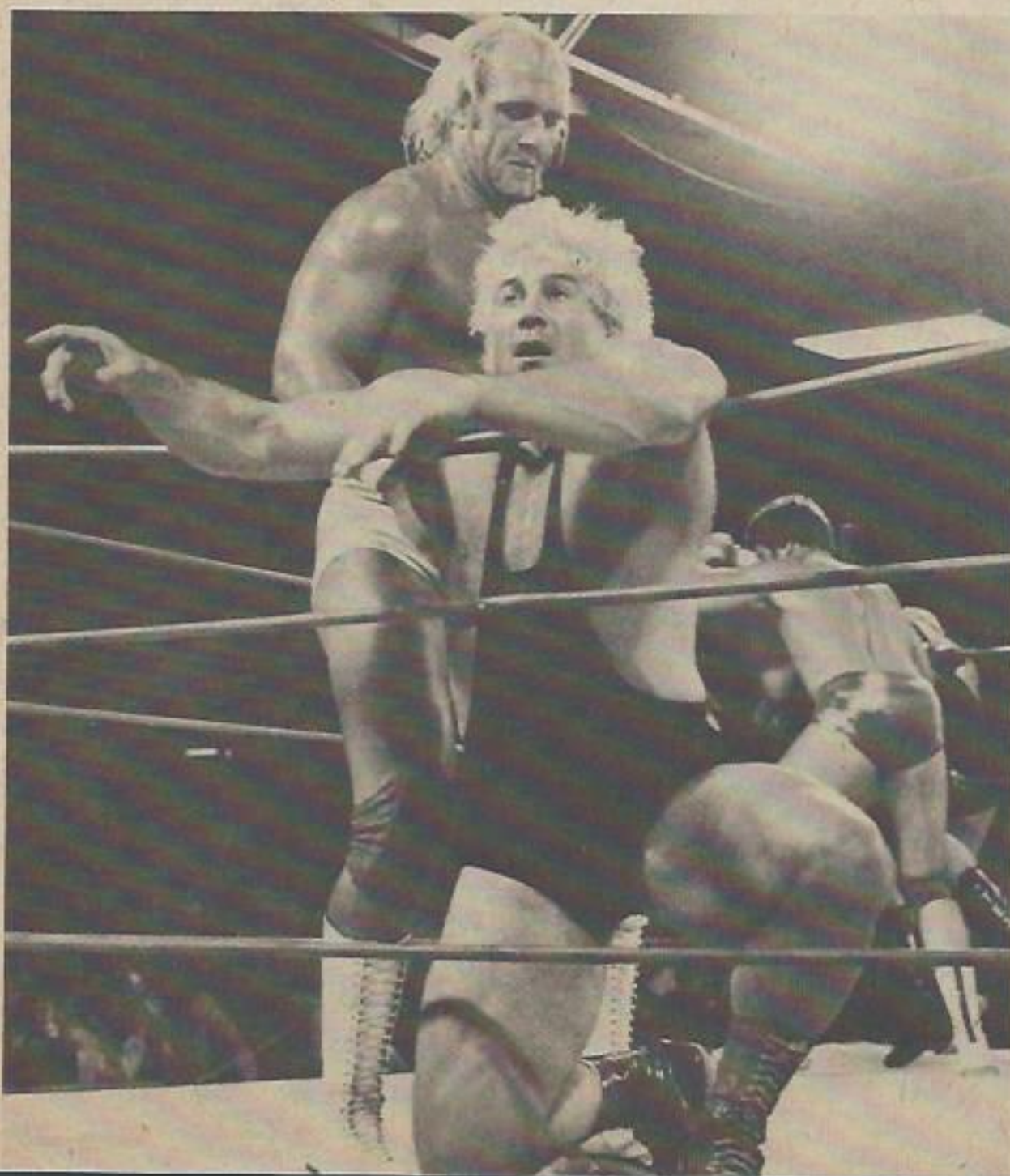
HULK HOGAN— WHERE DOES HE GO FROM HERE?

Incredible as it may seem, the wrestling career of Hulk Hogan appears to have reached a standstill.

Yes, he continues to win his matches. Yes, he continues to impress fans and opponents with his considerable skills. But when it comes to acquiring a major title, Hogan has some crucial career decisions to make



At the center of the action in the Las Vegas Battle Royal, Andre the Giant and Hulk Hogan gang up on Ken Patera (above). Hogan has Patera down and on the verge of going out (below).



LAS VEGAS IS a city that never sleeps. Outside, on the strip, night and day differ only in that at night, the light that illuminates all activities comes not from the sun, but from millions of neon lamps. This relatively small acreage of land is crammed to the limit with casinos, hotels, and restaurants.

Inside the casinos, there is no way to distinguish night from day. The clicking of chips, the whirr of the roulette wheel, the relentless sounds continue 24 hours a day, occasionally drowned out by the adrenaline-fueled screams of a big winner.

The casino inside The Showboat is as exciting and hectic as any hotel/casino in Vegas. But the real excitement recently took place not at the blackjack tables, not at the craps tables, but in a wrestling ring. A Battle Royal was taking place, and local oddsmakers were booking Andre the Giant as the favorite to win the contest.

The smart money was playing Andre, but it was no foregone conclusion that he would win. Baron Von Raschke, Ken Patera, Crusher Blackwell, Bobby Duncum, and Hulk Hogan were also among the participants.

A lot of bookies were happy when Hulk Hogan was left standing alone in the ring at the end.

As he acknowledged the cheers of the Las Vegas wrestling fans, Hulk Hogan smiled, but it was a halfhearted smile. Sure, he was happy that he had just won \$50,000 in prize money, but lacking in his smile was an indication of true inner satisfaction, the kind of satisfaction that comes from more than just money. It comes from a sense of purpose and direction.

In the next week, Hulk Hogan was scheduled to wrestle several matches in St. Louis. His opponents would include Great Tio and Greg Valentine. But not NWA champion Ric Flair.

Following a tour of Japan for several weeks, Hogan would be back in AWA country. His opponents would include Jesse Ventura and Ken Patera. But not AWA champion Nick Bockwinkel.

What is happening to Hulk Hogan? Why recently has he taken matches against top challengers and not major champions? If he is as dissatisfied as he appears, why doesn't he change the course he is currently on? Why does he continue to tour Japan, destroying his momentum toward championship matches here in the United States?

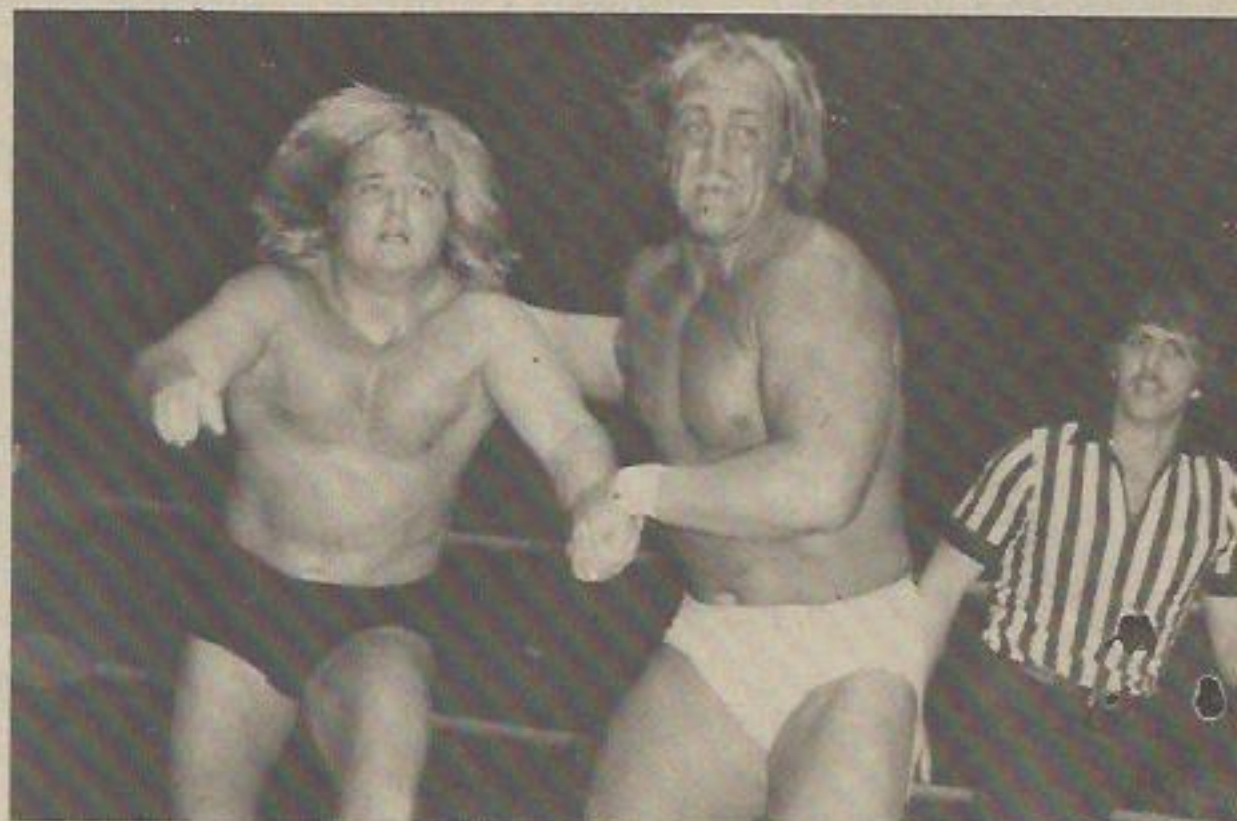
All valid questions, the answers to which we can only arrive at through speculation.

Clearly, Hulk Hogan has lost any sense of direction his wrestling career once had. There

was once a time when the AWA championship was the most important goal in Hogan's life. That does not appear to be the case anymore.

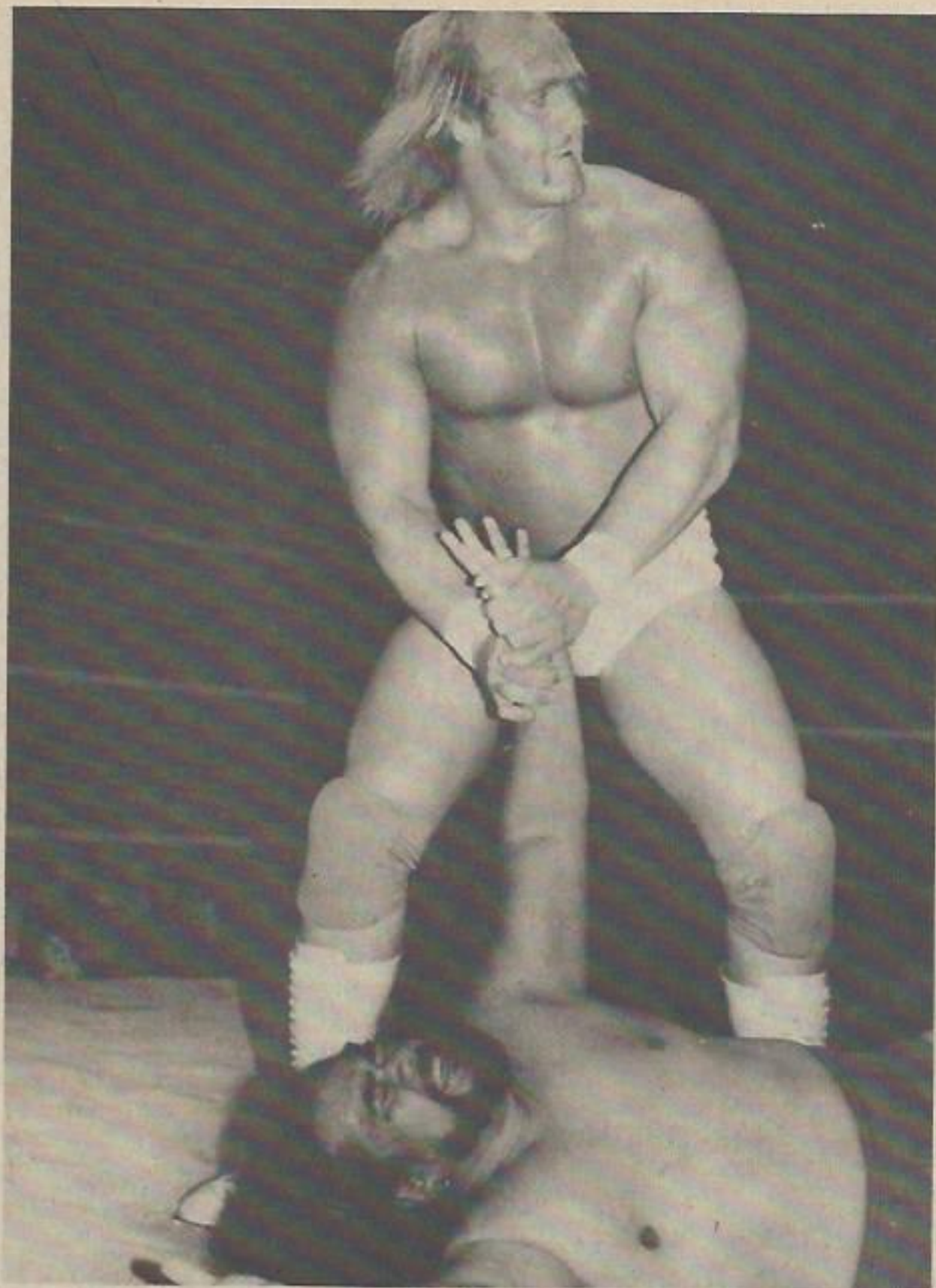
Perhaps the taste of Hollywood that Hulk Hogan received when he appeared in *Rocky III* altered his outlook on

life. Perhaps the easier life of an actor attracts him more than the grueling day-to-day schedule of a professional wrestler. If Hulk Hogan is considering leaving wrestling in favor of an acting career, the effects would certainly be seen in the ring and in the direction his career



When most people thought Hogan would go for a title shot against Ric Flair in St. Louis, the Hulk opted to wrestle Greg Valentine (above). Hogan takes a knee to the groin from Crusher Blackwell in the Battle Royal (below).





The Great Tio is a top contender, but he is not a world champion. Hogan applies a wristlock on the Samoan (above). Many observers feel Hogan is preoccupied with his movie career. "Thunderlips" squares off against Rocky Balboa in "Rocky III" (below).



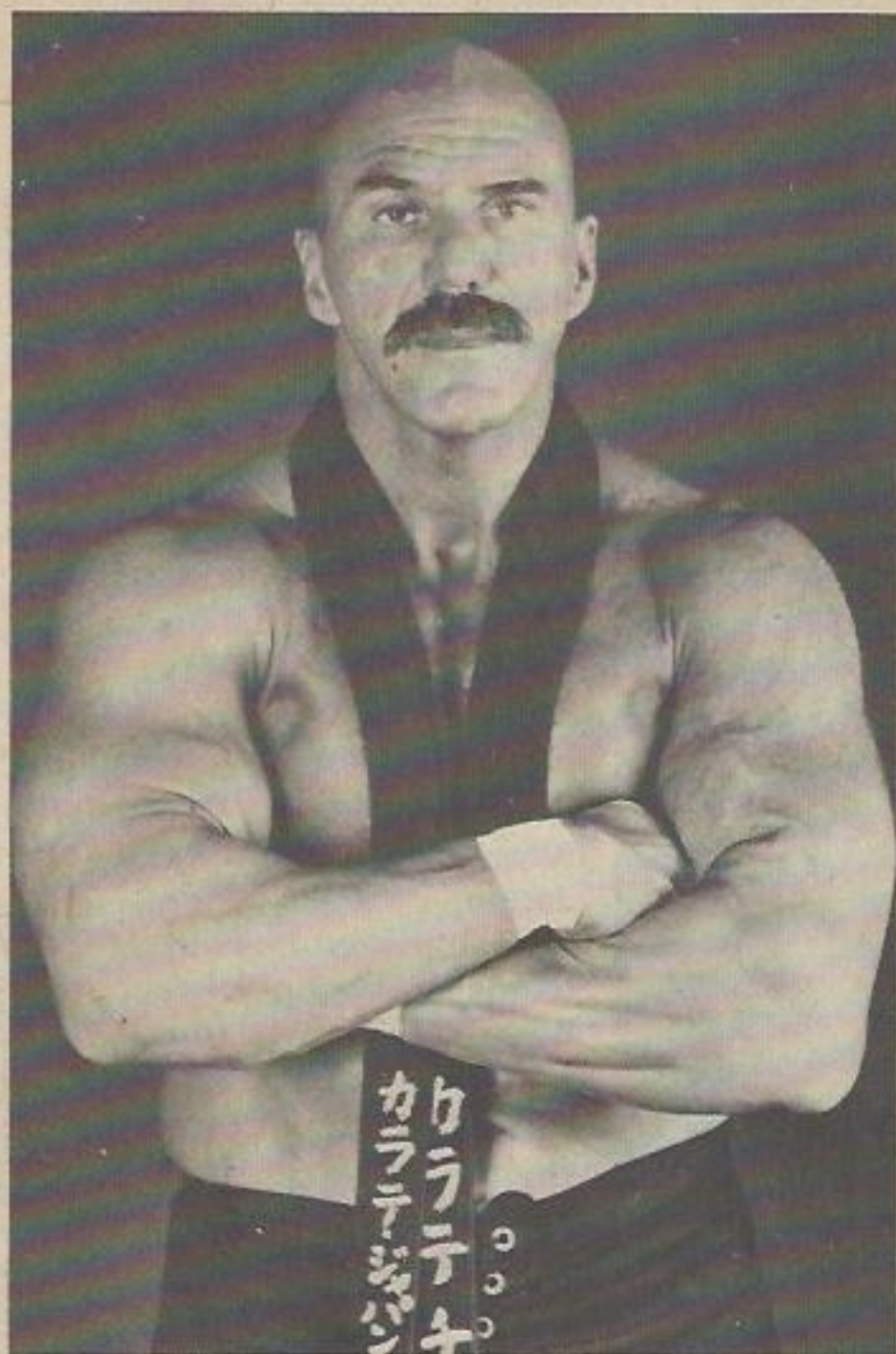
is taking. Presently, Hogan's career has no direction, so perhaps he really is considering giving up professional wrestling.

Furthermore, when Hulk Hogan travels to Japan, it destroys his chances of gaining title matches here in the states. A month-long tour of Japan may endear Hogan to the wrestling fans there, but it does nothing but hurt his standing in the U.S. And if Nick Bockwinkel battled so hard to keep Otto Wanz from bringing the title back to Austria, you can bet that he's not going to let Hogan win the belt and take it to Japan.

Perhaps what Hulk Hogan needs is a change of scenery. If he made a switch to the WWF and wrestled in that territory for a few months, this might revitalize his outlook on his career. When Hogan was in the WWF several years ago, he was denied the opportunity to wrestle heavyweight champion Bob Backlund at Madison Square Garden. Perhaps he might want to work toward that goal again.

Or maybe what Hogan needs is the guidance of an experienced manager. The proper manager might even be able to strike a balance between Hogan's wrestling in the United States, his wrestling in Japan, and his fledgling acting career.

What is certain is that Hogan's career right now is at a standstill. Something must be done to get it moving again. Whether that something consists of retaining a manager, changing where he wrestles, or something else completely, Hulk Hogan has got to act quickly. If he remains as he is now, his career can do nothing but deteriorate. That would be a sad fate for a superb competitor. □



HOW BOB BACKLUND STOLE THE WWF BELT FROM ME... AGAIN!

By
**SUPERSTAR
BILLY GRAHAM**

Superstar Billy Graham believed he finally had Bob Backlund where he wanted him. Graham had forced the WWF champion into a Lumberjack Match, with Swede Hanson as special referee. Both Graham and his manager, The Grand Wizard, felt Graham could not lose, but lose he did. An angry Superstar Graham claims the reason he lost has nothing to do with wrestling ability

[Editor's Note: Prior to his Madison Square Garden Lumberjack Match with WWF champion Bob Backlund, Superstar Billy Graham was supremely self-confident. A Lumberjack Match, he reasoned, would help assure that there would be no disqualification during the confrontation. Should one man fall out of the ring, there would be a dozen or more wrestlers waiting to throw him right back in again. Furthermore, the WWF had assigned Swede Hanson as special referee for the match. Both

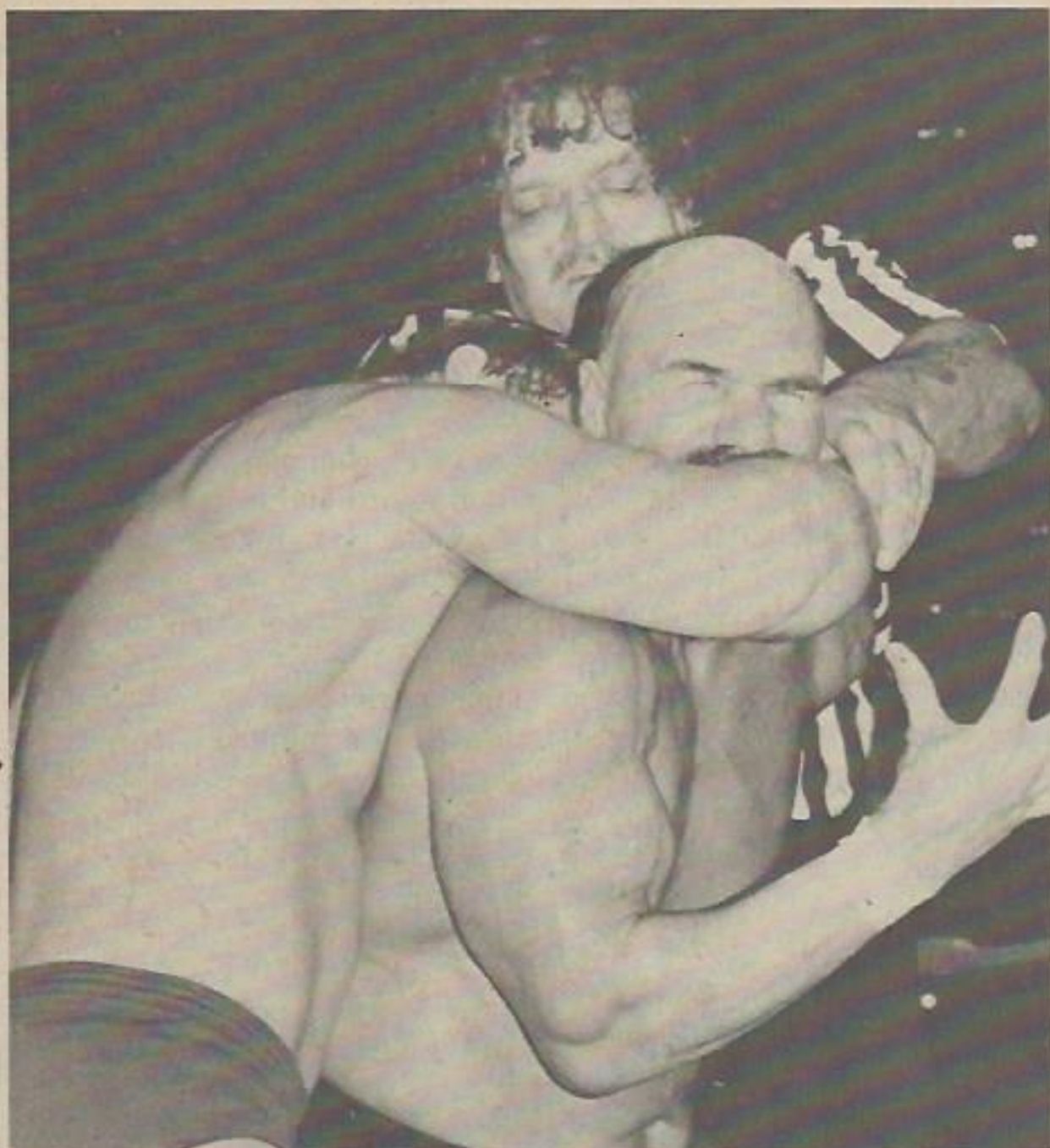
Graham and his manager, The Grand Wizard, were pleased by the fact Hanson had been chosen. "As far as we're concerned," said the Wizard, "Swede Hanson is the best referee money can buy."

The outcome of that match, however, did not please either Superstar Graham or his manager. Bob Backlund emerged victorious when referee Hanson signaled that Graham had submitted to Backlund's chicken wing hold. Graham vehemently denied he ever submitted.

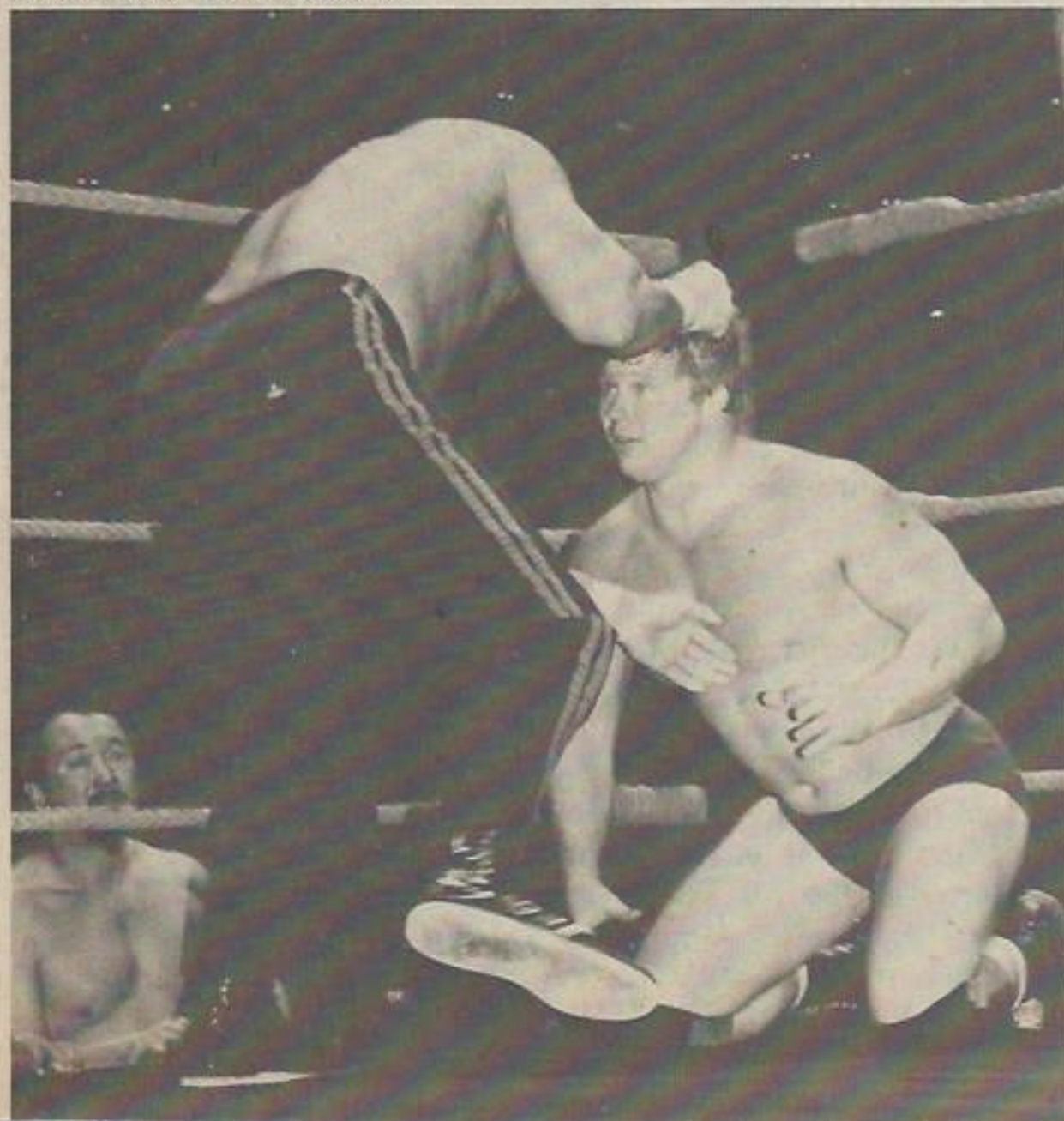
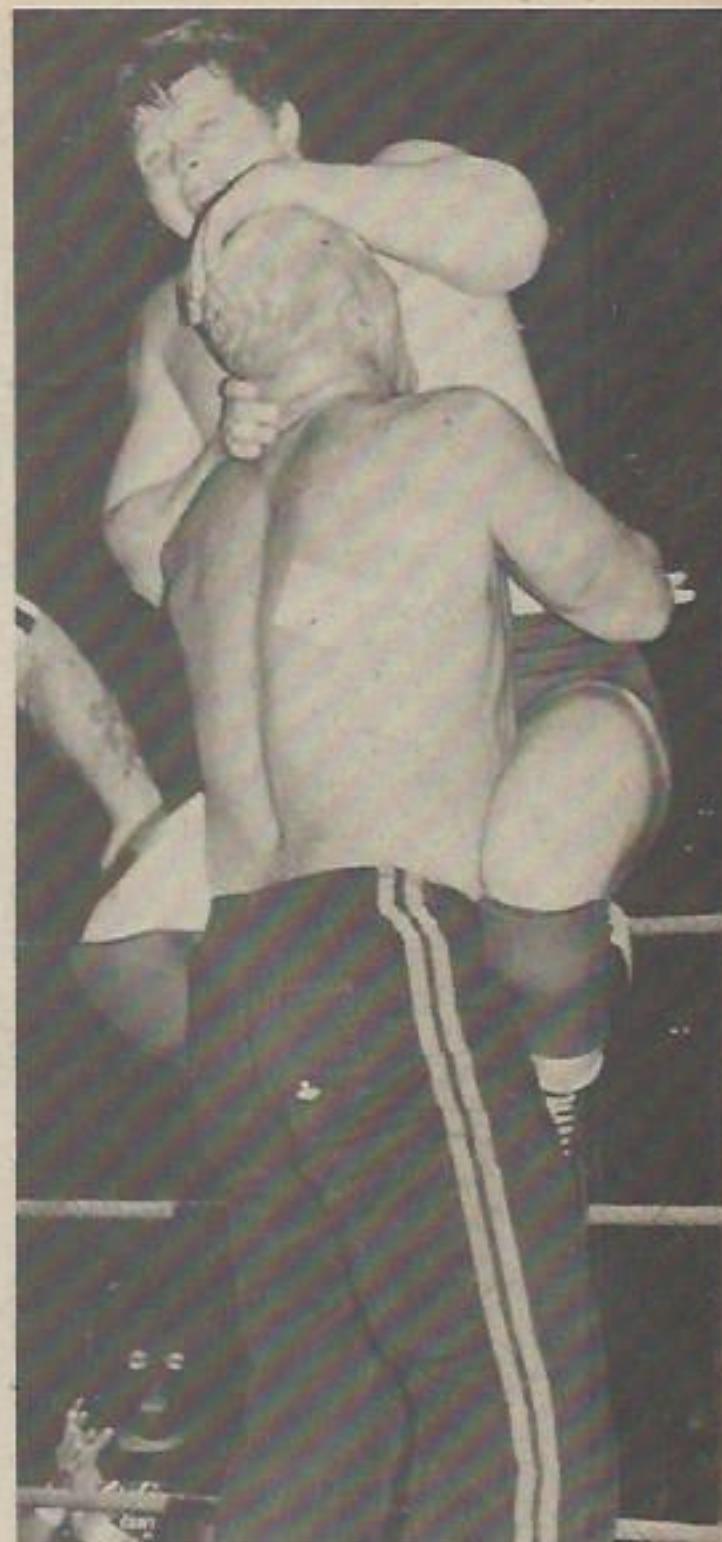
The morning after this match,

Graham phoned the editorial offices of "Sports Review Wrestling." He demanded that we provide him with the forum to, in his words, "explain to the wrestling world how Bob Backlund stole the WWF belt from me . . . again."

We have provided Graham with this forum, not because we bend to the demands of any wrestler who contacts us, but because we feel his opinion is important enough to be presented to our readers. We hope you find them as vital to understanding the Graham-Backlund feud as we do.]



"Special referee" Swede Hanson examines the placement of the chicken wing before calling for the bell (above). Minutes earlier, Backlund withstands the pressure of perhaps wrestling's most powerful bearhug (right). Graham lowers the champion to the canvas by his hair (below).



LET ME TELL you people, all you readers of this fine magazine, that nothing has changed. Bobby Backlund is still the same thieving, conniving, poor excuse for a man that he was five years ago.

At that time, back in February of 1978, Bob Backlund stole the WWF belt from me. Everyone knows it, everyone saw it, the facts of the matter are painfully obvious to any fan who even takes the smallest amount of time to examine the evidence.

Bob Backlund became champion when the referee failed to notice what 20,000 fans in Madison Square Garden noticed: My feet were resting on the ropes during the so-called "pin." He stole the belt from me, and I wouldn't be

(Continued on page 56)

(Who are The Samoans? Animal, mineral, vegetable, none of the above? Deranged spores from an alien culture of harbingers of a future civilization? Violent mystery shrouds this dangerous duo. Only one man understands their bizarre minds. Only one man knows their past. Only one man can provide a glimpse of their, and our future.)



Six natives accompanied me to the edge of Flurm. A strange odor (something like Sammartino after a heavy workout), filled the air. Stale pepperoni, you know the smell. About a quarter of a mile away, the native started grumbling, looking into trees into the ground. I cracked my whip for obedience. Got none. Crying like Backlund after a bad whipping, the native deserted me. I'd have to make the final trek alone.

Darkness descended. I could barely see. The odor got stronger. I could barely breathe. Even the Captain was nervous. Birds shrieked, vines crunched. And heavy breathing. I stopped, peered,

Despite all this painful attention, they didn't seem bent on violence. I had to communicate. How?

I had to learn their language. Apparently The Samoans never had to leave their cave. All their creature comforts, food, shelter, amusement (two rocks tied to a vine which they'd swing over their heads was their only game). Much of their communication flowed from grunts and gestures.

I know sign language. What'd I have to lose? I made the sign for friend. Their eyes brightened and what passed for a smile—parted lips, saliva over chin, twitching nose—came to their faces. They

THE SAMOANS LIFE STORY

By Captain Lou Albano

THERE'S A JUNGLE in Samoa where no civilized man has ever been. Even the Captain had never dared enter. I'd heard stories of animal-men raised by Samoan tigers and lions, nurtured in the caves. I thought it was superstition. What if it weren't? What if the Captain, brave and fearless, shrewd and brilliant, could actually tame these wild animal-men?

Natives cautioned me against approaching this forbidding black pit of vines and strange noises. In Samoa, they called it "Flurm," a name that was to become as much a part of my vocabulary as hello, good-bye, and brains.

saw the dim outline of an entrance. The entrance to Flurm.

Before I could say how-do-ya-do, four huge arms seized me and whisked me away. Vines covered my face. I whizzed down a dark corridor. Dumped on my rear. When I came to, I was bathed in natural light, deep in the heart of The Samoans' cave.

This was the first time ever I'd seen their faces, Afa and Sika. Bug-eyed, groaning, snarling, hair all over their bodies. Thought I'd died and made a wrong turn. One of them, the good-looking one, poked me in the ribs. I didn't protest. Didn't want my head removed.

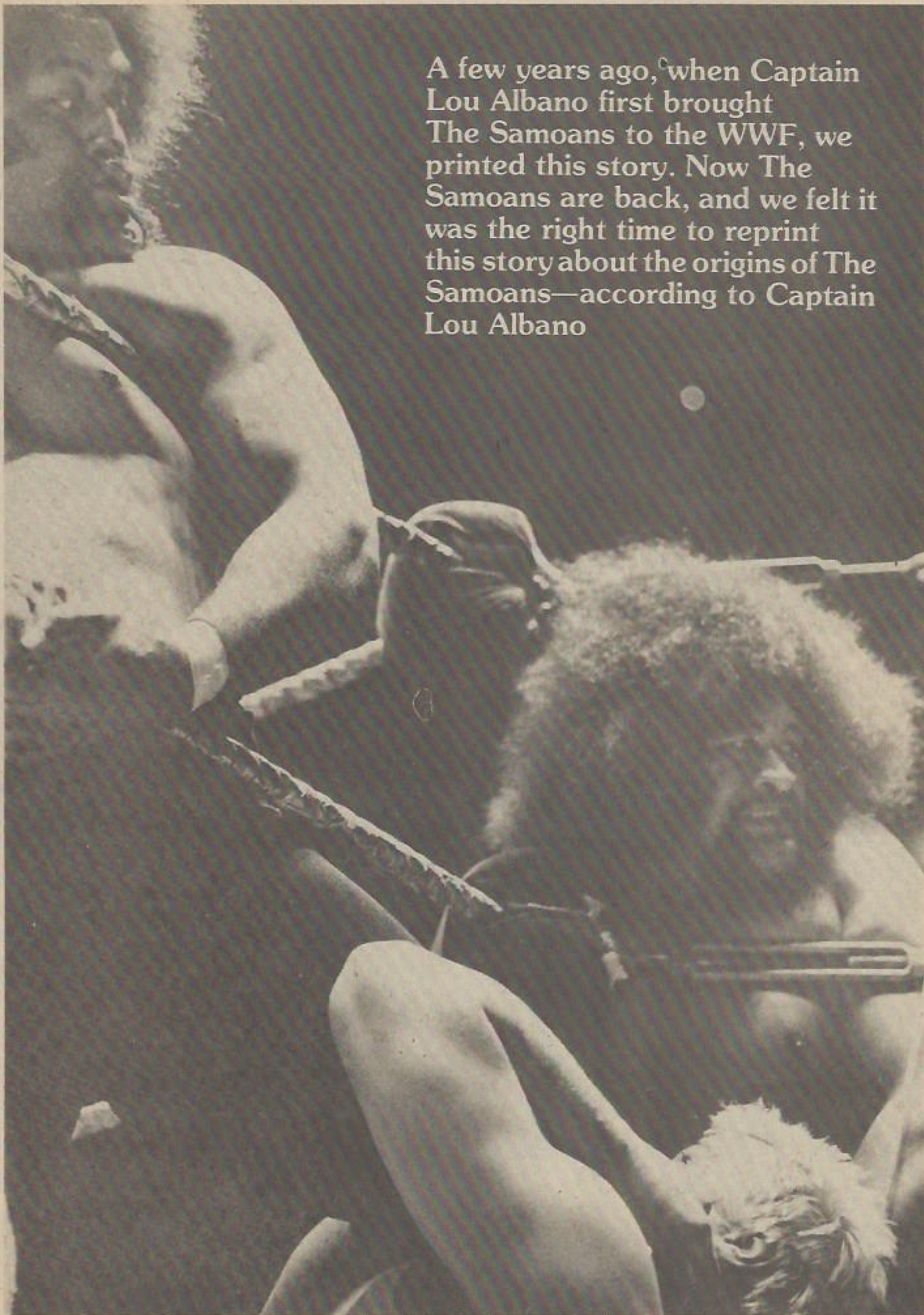
responded. Friends.

I asked them how they learned sign language. Afa explained that a genetically deaf tribe of Samoans lived nearby and, when mating season arrived, it was imperative, for physical and emotional happiness, to be able to communicate.

I knew Afa and Sika would be natural wrestlers. Fierce, dedicated, shrewd. What I didn't know was how to control them. See, certain words, like "flurm," and "ratsbupkis," trigger certain actions. But The Samoans don't always respond.

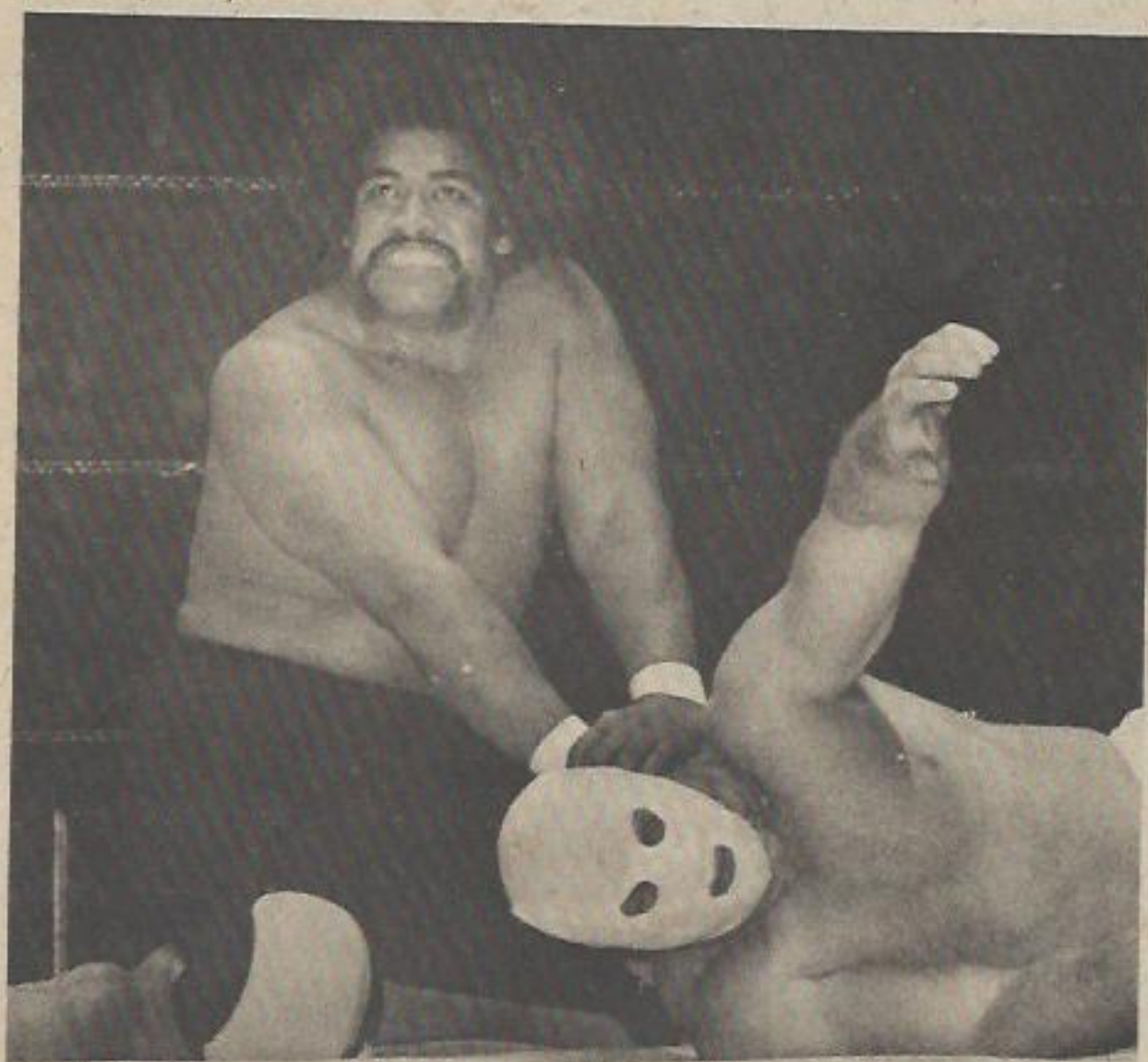
I say I control them 15, 20 percent of the time. Rest of the

A few years ago, when Captain Lou Albano first brought The Samoans to the WWF, we printed this story. Now The Samoans are back, and we felt it was the right time to reprint this story about the origins of The Samoans—according to Captain Lou Albano





When Lou Albano brought the Samoans to the U.S., he made the mistake of bringing them to a barber. They drank the hair tonic. The Captain then purchased replicas of the tag team belts (previous page) to demonstrate what their target was. The clean-shaven Samoans help each other into their traditional costumes (above) and go into fierce combat (below).



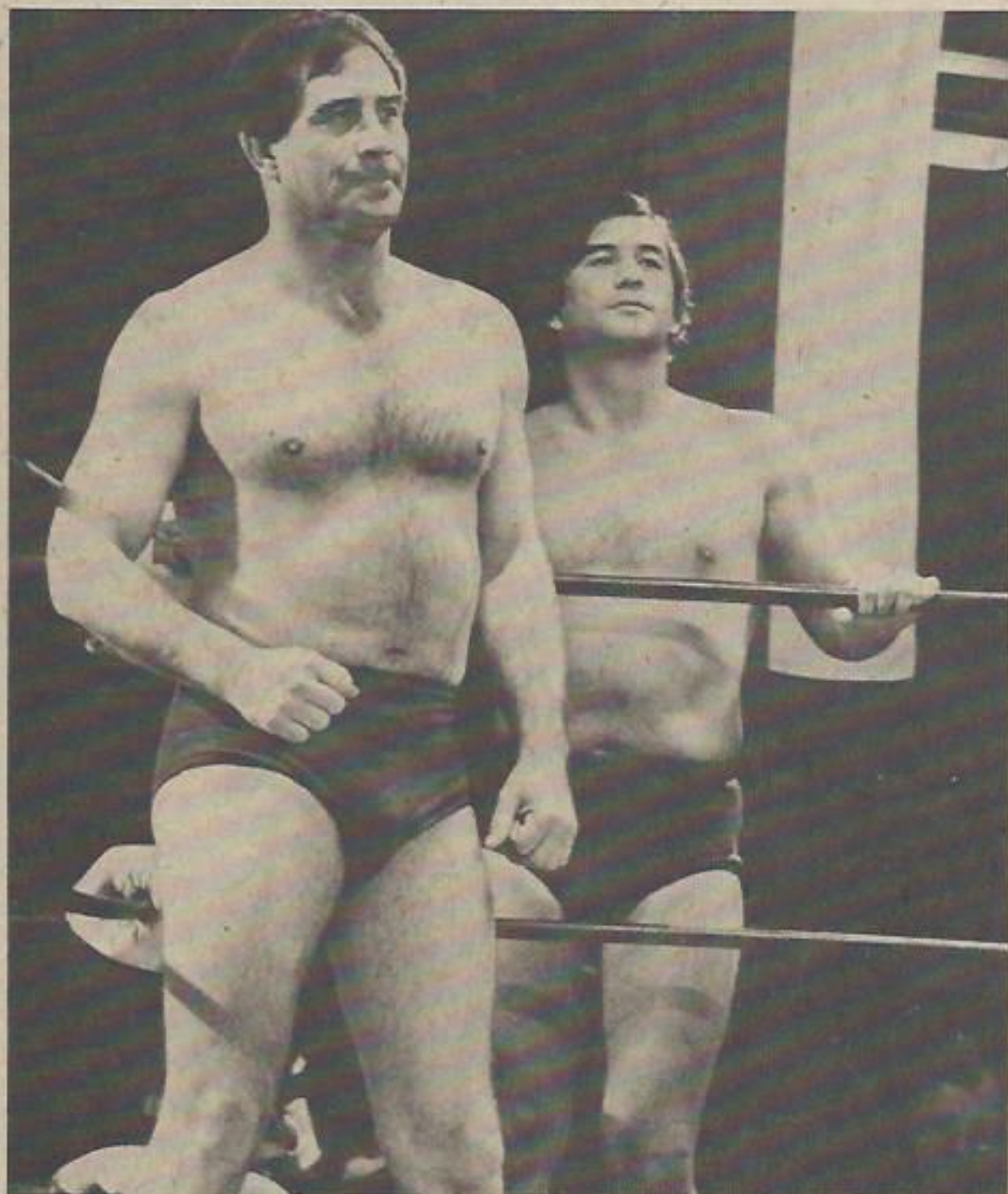
time, who knows? They'll go crazy. Ever seen a Samoan foraging for food in the jungle? They'll tear out vines, trees, tigers, kill birds, eat wings, jump into snake pits, anything for food.

Now I've taken that same hunger for food and turned it into a hunger for a title. Samoans don't know from things like money, cars, shoes, water picks. No. The Samoans are primitive, back from mankind's darkest days, before television, before wrestling. Before wrestling? The Samoans invented wrestling! They invented holds. Think Backlund's slippery? Ever try to climb a vine?

Afa and Sika were born from Samoan warrior stock. Their father led this small, fierce tribe. They are killers, madmen, the very future of wrestling. They are true warriors, true leaders, brave men capable of anything.

All wrestling should thank their lucky stars for Afa and Sika. And for Lou Albano, who brought them to America. □

WILL THE QUEST FOR THE NWA TAG TEAM TITLE



JACK BRISCO DELIVERED a forceful elbowsmash to the chest of Ken Timbs. When Timbs crashed to the canvas, Jack grabbed his foot and tagged off to his brother, Jerry.

Entering the ring with energy to spare, Jerry took Timbs' foot and twisted the leg. Jerry increased the pressure as Jack offered support from the corner.

Then another tag was made, and Jack was back in the ring sending his elbow crashing into Timbs' leg and weakening it even further.

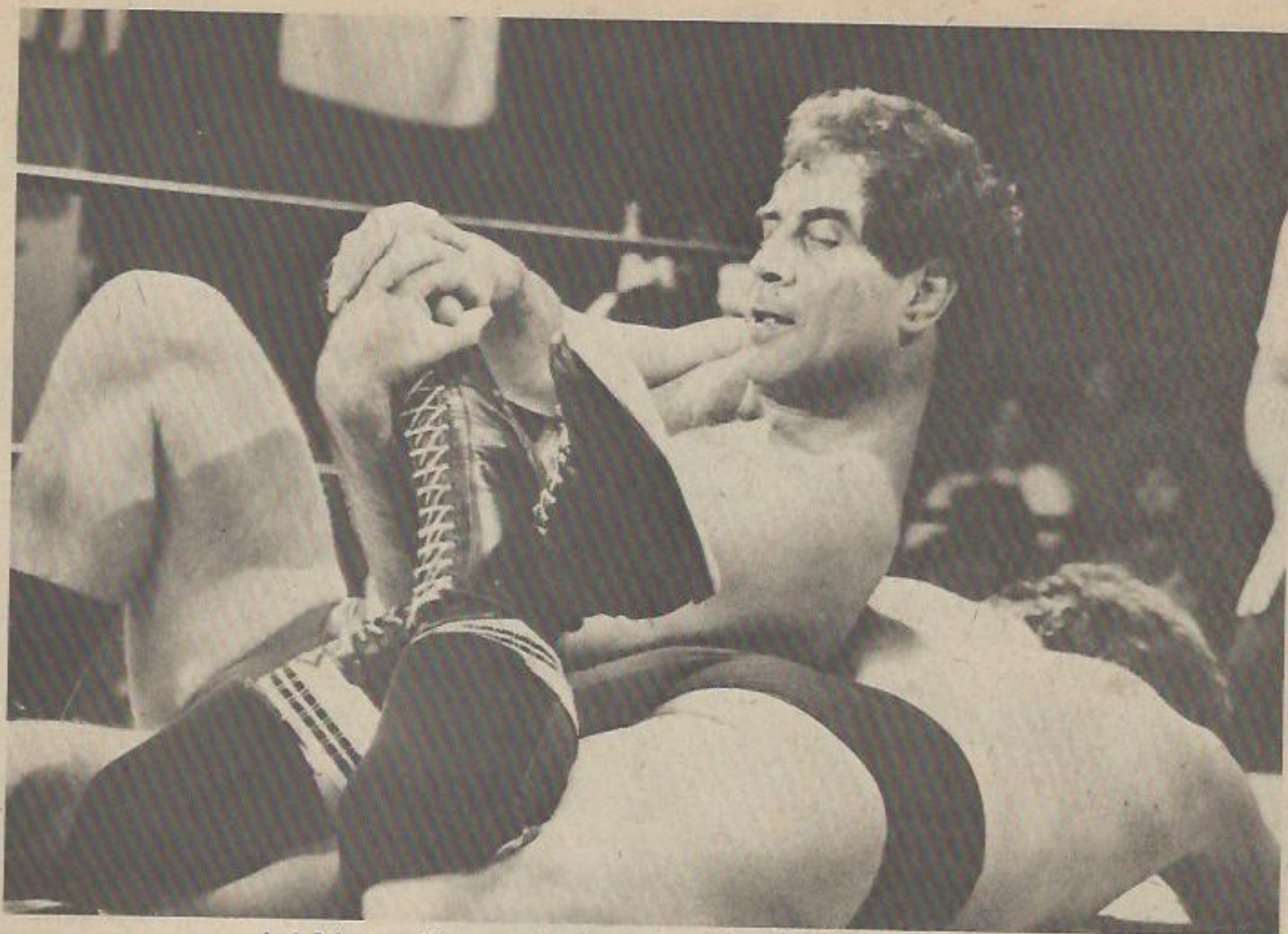
Throughout the ordeal, Timbs was unable to come within tagging distance of his partner, Jim Dalton. But if Timbs and Dalton were unable to mount any sort of an offensive, it certainly wasn't for lack of trying; the brothers Brisco performed like a well-oiled machine, tagging off frequently, and keeping their opponents at a distinct disadvantage throughout the match.

Another tag, and Jerry

TEAR THE BRISCOS APART?

Championship belts can deeply affect the men who wear them. When the championship in question is a tag team title, the potential problems are doubled. Wrestling history is filled with stories of tag teams that were torn apart because of internal conflicts. Are Jack and Jerry Brisco immune to these conflicts? Not necessarily

PHOTOS BY BILL APTER



Jack Brisco applies an overlapping toe hold on Jim Dalton. The Brisco brothers are preparing themselves for a title shot with NWA tag team champions Don Kernodle and Sgt. Slaughter. But are they prepared for the potentially disastrous side effects of going after the title?

charged into the ring. By this time, Timbs was grabbing his left leg in agony, but Jerry offered no mercy. He snaked his legs around Timbs' and, in seconds, applied a perfect figure-four leglock.

Outside the ring ropes, Jack Brisco cheered his brother's achievement. The referee called for the timekeeper to end the match. Jack came into the ring and helped extricate his brother from the figure-four. The brothers embraced, and another victory was added to the Briscos' considerable record as a tag team.

At that instant, Jack and Jerry Brisco appeared to be the happiest men in the world. As brothers, their friendship is legendary; as wrestlers, the Briscos have a reputation for being

a precision, winning tag team.

Now, as 1983 shifts into high gear, Jack and Jerry Brisco are preparing for the most important mission of their lives. Jerry Brisco explains:

"Over the years, my brother and I have wrestled in a lot of tag team matches, and we've held some titles along the way, but there have been some things going on in the NWA recently that we don't particularly like. I'm talking about the men who wear the NWA tag team belts right now: Sgt. Slaughter and Don Kernodle.

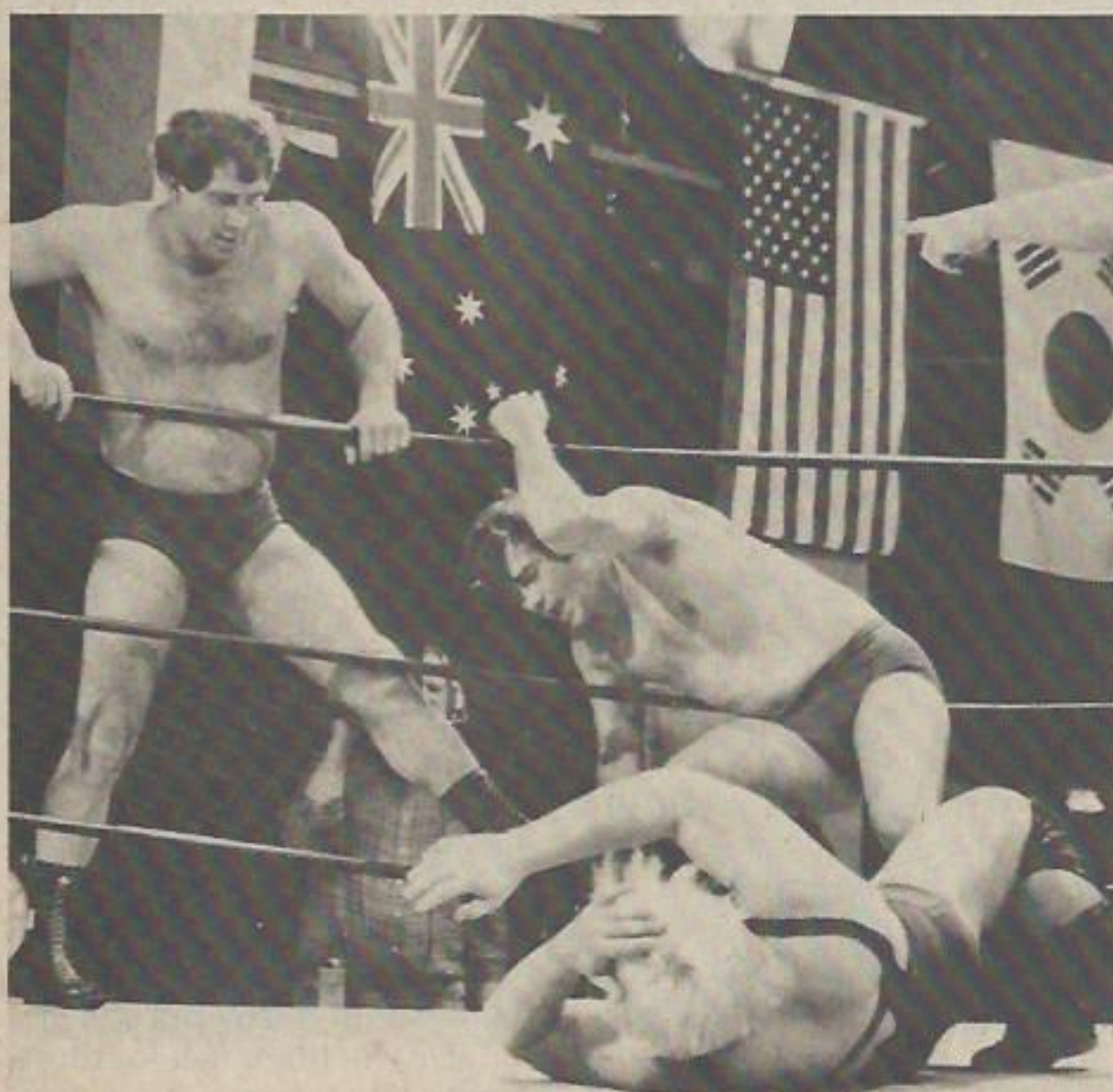
"These two men, or should I say snakes," Jerry continued, "are not the kinds of wrestlers who should be representing the NWA to the world. Jack and myself are going to be campaigning very heavily against

Slaughter and Kernodle in the weeks to come. In fact, we hope to have the NWA tag team belts by the time this magazine reaches the newsstands."

But if the Brisco brothers manage to capture the NWA tag team belts, how will that affect their relationship? Will the achievement serve to create tension between the two brothers who have maintained such a solid reputation of professional cooperation so long? Indeed, will the very fact that the Briscos are campaigning for the title serve to drive a wedge between these closest of brothers?

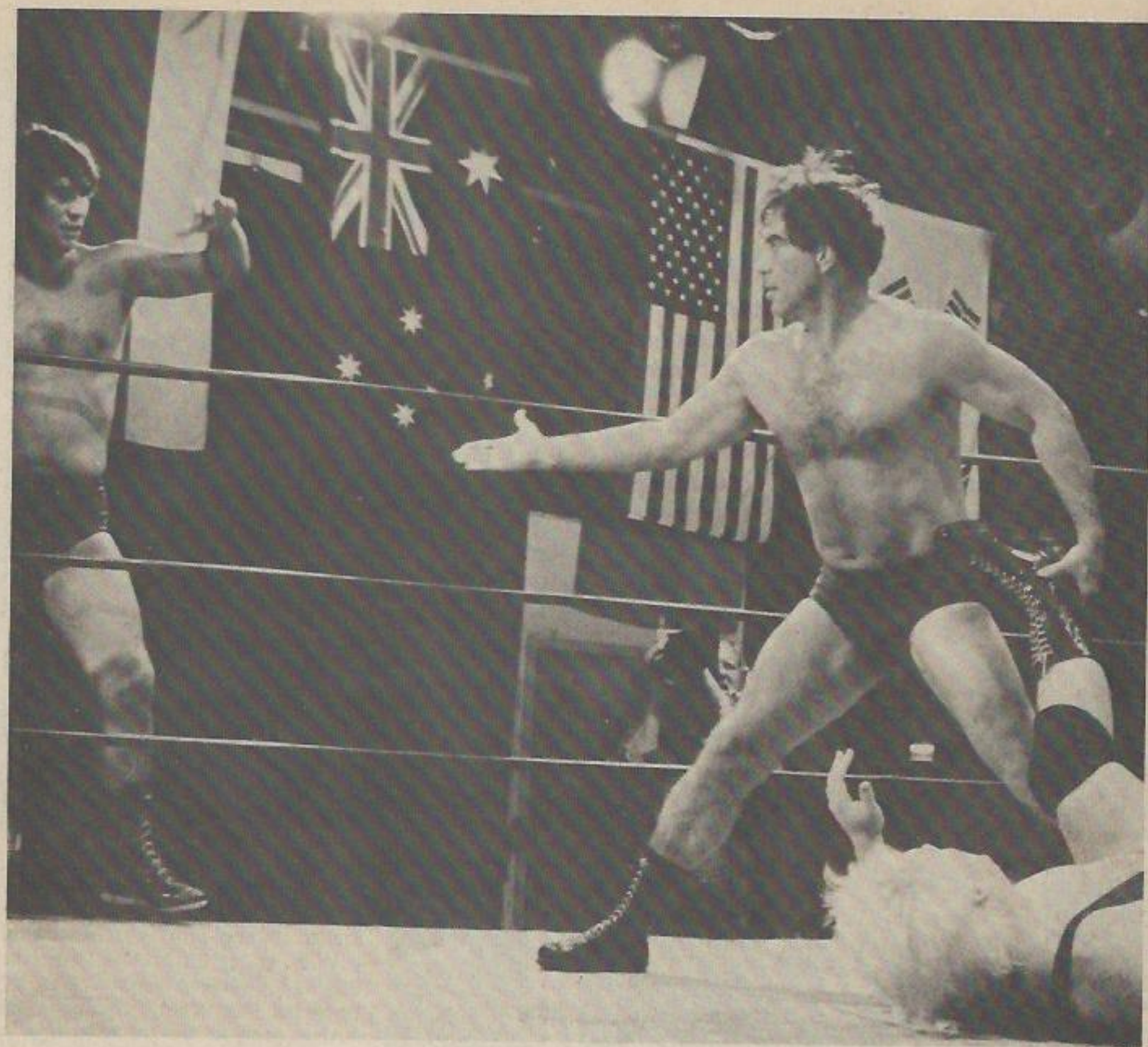
Consider the facts:

- The current NWA tag team champions, Sgt. Slaughter and Don Kernodle, have been

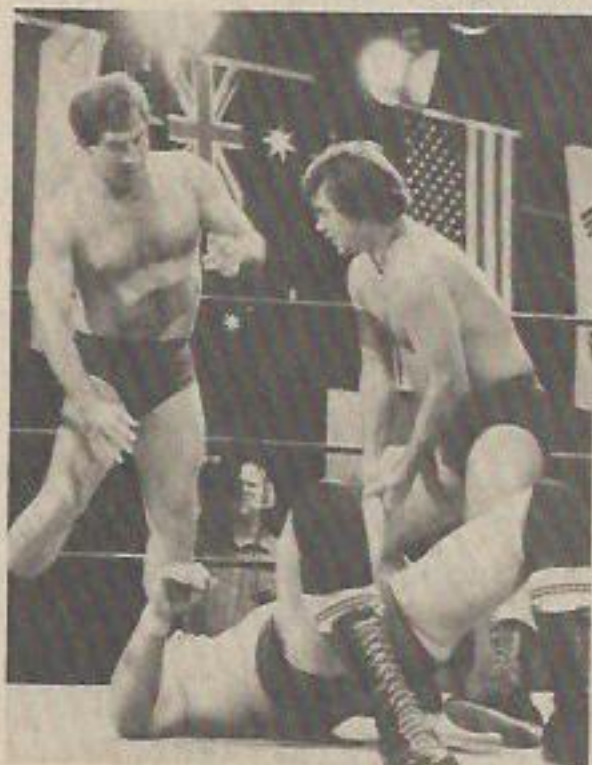


Jerry Brisco applies a front facelock, making sure Ken Timbs cannot move forward to make a tag (above). When Brisco is through with Timbs, he will be in position to tag off to Jack (left). The Briscos have proved they are a great tag team, but they could be making a big mistake going for the championship.

experiencing tensions between themselves (see *SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING ANNUAL*, Spring 1983: "NWA Tag Team Champions Kernodle & Slaughter—Will The Chain Of Command Break Down?"). We can safely assume that these tensions have come about as the result of pressures put on them by the rigors of defending the belts. The Briscos, as they work toward the championship, are facing similar pressures. Often, challengers have to work harder than champions in order to achieve their goal. The pressures of contention have claimed literally dozens of tag teams over the years.



After just a few seconds in the ring, Jack tags Jerry back into the action (above). And before Jerry can get too tired, he brings Jack back into the ring (below).



● Jack Brisco, the older of the two brothers, has held many more singles titles than Jerry. He is currently the Mid-Atlantic champion, he has held the Missouri title twice (once defeating current WWF titlist Bob Backlund for that honor), and he is a two-time NWA champion. It would not be foolish to suspect that a sort of sibling rivalry might spring up between the two brothers as they come closer to becoming NWA tag team champions.

● When he was NWA champion from 1973 to 1975, Jack Brisco's personality became extremely volatile. Every so often he would adopt the per-

sonality of a rulebreaker rather than utilize the conventions of scientific wrestling that helped him capture the title in the first place. Should he obtain as important a title as the NWA tag team championship, he would be experiencing the same pressures that made his style so uncertain while he was NWA champion.

Upon examining these facts, it becomes clear that under the pressures of attaining and upholding a major championship, even the closest of tag teams could easily split apart. In this case, there is a lot more to lose outside the ring than within. □

A fascinating blonde beauty has everything anyone could ask for in life. However, she could lose it all in one incredible battle with the most ferocious Amazon in apartment wrestling history

THE MAID BURNED the toast again. Belinda finished breakfast and pushed her tray aside. There was still time for another hour's beauty rest before the masseuse was due to arrive. Belinda could never get enough of silk sheet luxury.

For six months, the blonde beauty had been living the great life. Her every whim was indulged by one of the richest men in the world. The

penthouse apartment she called home was in one of New York's most exclusive buildings, overlooking Central Park. Naturally, her benefactor picked up the rent bill, or rather, one of his many companies did. It's not sure how he wrote off Belinda's designer fashions, gourmet meals, and lavish presents. The exquisite woman didn't worry about such things.

Belinda had only one worry.

She was living the life of luxury because of her great skill as an apartment wrestler. Whenever the tycoon saw her conquer an equally beautiful young lady in combat, his every sense pulsed from her savage fury. He could no more resist her magnificence than he could stop breathing. He was captive of her power, and too happy to complain. The electric delight he felt in watching her was worth more

Apartment Wrestling's Biggest Gamble:

THE SIX MILLION DOLLAR BEAUTY WHO D



than anything Belinda could want.

So he decided to make sure this incredible Amazon got what she wanted. Like his stable of race horses, Belinda was given the best care, the best accommodations, and the best service. He rarely spoke to Belinda, and almost never visited the apartment. To him, she was just another animal it gave him pleasure to watch. It didn't interest him to take the relationship into any other areas. All he desired was the knowledge of possession.

That suited Belinda fine. Her benefactor never interfered in her private life; he only made it perfect. Still, there was a sword dangling over the beauty's head. If ever she should fall from favor, if ever she should lose, her riches would be taken away.

Belinda didn't plan to lose. She was having too much fun. A friend dubbed her "The Six-Million-Dollar Woman" and she liked the way it sounded. Even the little things, like the doormen scurrying to get her a cab, delighted the lady. This was the best of all possible worlds, and she planned to keep it that way.

When her masseuse arrived, Belinda was happy as a kitten. That contentment didn't last long.

As the masseuse spread coconut oil over Belinda's lithe body, she informed the warrior, "I hear Pamela is to be your next opponent." The masseuse increased the pressure as Belinda's body tensed. "Now, now, pet," the masseuse continued, "relax. You still have

Blonde beauty Belinda's face is contorted in agony as Pamela digs her talon-like nails into Belinda's face and neck.



ARE NOT LOSE!

a week before the match. No sense worrying about it now. You're just making my job that much harder." Fingers dug hard into Belinda's flesh, trying to loosen muscles constricting from panic.

The massage was a war between the masseuse's fingers and Belinda's nerves. Visions of her old studio apartment and

much. Pamela proved herself a bully consumed by killer instinct.

Once someone dominates an opponent like Pamela dominated Belinda, the smart money says the winner will always conquer. Something in the loser's head, a memory of the pain perhaps, makes her scared, clumsy and helpless. By all rights, Pamela would have no trouble



Belinda's legs are spread so far apart she must feel the voluptuous limbs are about to snap.

hotplate dinners swarmed through Belinda's brain. The scuffling for rent money, the lousy job at Bloomingdale's; her nightmare past could become her future. Pamela was back.

A year ago, Belinda had been devastated by Pamela. It was a cruel exhibition of grappling dominance. The battle left its sour aftermath in the pit of the spectators' bellies; it went on too long and Belinda suffered too

mauling Belinda once again.

Yet, Belinda knew what would happen if her protector's favor transferred to Pamela. She couldn't afford to lose. There was a week to prepare. Not a moment would be wasted.

While Belinda trained with monastic intensity, Pamela renewed her acquaintances in New York City. When she left the city eight months ago, she'd been the toast of the jet set, the wealthy, and a select group of the more successful artists. From Sutton Place to Soho, her arrival was greeted with celebration.

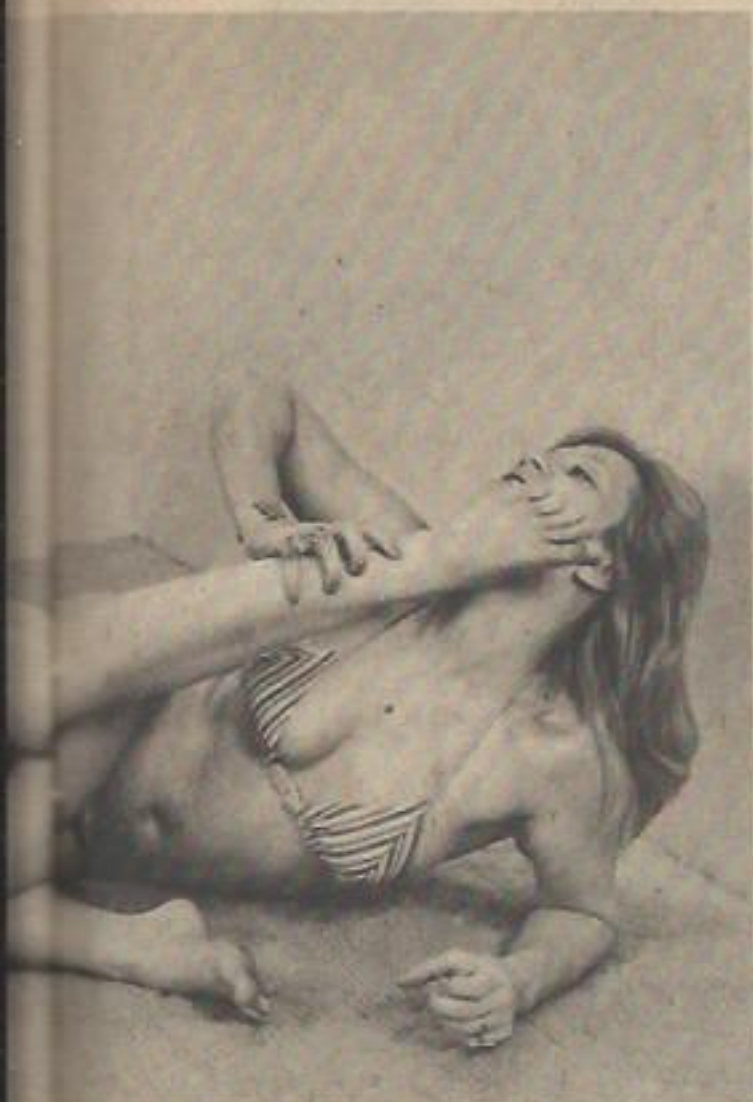


As Pamela applies pressure to a toehold, Belinda prepares to bite her beautiful brunette opponent's leg.

When people told her of Belinda's good fortune, Pamela's face took on the expression of a hungry shark. By this time next week, she assured her companions, Belinda's good fortune would be Pamela's own.

There were plenty of people eager to tell Belinda of Pamela's threats. The blonde heard the news time and time again. Each time she laughed; a horrible, choking laugh that stuck in her craw and chilled the listener. Some said she trembled, others didn't notice. Her maid claimed to have heard Belinda scream in the night, victimized by nightmares, but the two women never got along.

The night of the match, most of New York's wealthy filled the penthouse of Belinda's benefactor. This was the fitting arena for such a brawl. It was no accident that the patron seated himself in the huge *Louis Quatorze* armchair; this modern Sun King was ready to preside



the bedrooms. Each was dazzling. However, Pamela moved with the confidence of a conqueror. Belinda looked more like a cornered animal ready to fight for its life. In fact, that description pretty well described Belinda's situation. As for the tycoon, he looked like the emperor impatient for the festivities to start.

The signal was given. Pamela slowly approached Belinda as the blonde stood her ground. Then, with lightning swiftness,

Pamela's arm slashed through the air and the back of her hand smacked against Belinda's temple. The blonde sprawled on the carpet. The crowd was pleased. It would be a slaughter.

Belinda had other ideas. With ferocious grace, she sent her feet smashing into Pamela's belly. Belinda's body was a missile of torment; Pamela doubled over from its power. Belinda sprang to her feet and leaped on the pained brunette.

(Continued on page 58)

over his realm. The more sensitive apartment wrestling spectators didn't show this night; they didn't want to see a repetition of the last match. Also, it takes a certain ghoulish sensibility to witness Belinda's anguish if she lost. It was a cruel crowd this night, men used to seeing inferiors squirm. Belinda could sense this as she walked quickly to the bedroom.

Pamela too could sense the bloodlust of the crowd, and it delighted her. She was one of them, use to savoring victory over the fallen foe. These were her people, and she was determined to please them. The lioness had come to reclaim her domain. There was only a hint of her powerful grace as she strode to another dressing room. When the dress came off and her magnificent body clothed only in a bikini, then her jungle majesty would be revealed. As far as Pamela was concerned, her victory was only minutes away. The enjoyment of her previous massacre flooded her senses.

Soon, all was in readiness. The women were summoned from



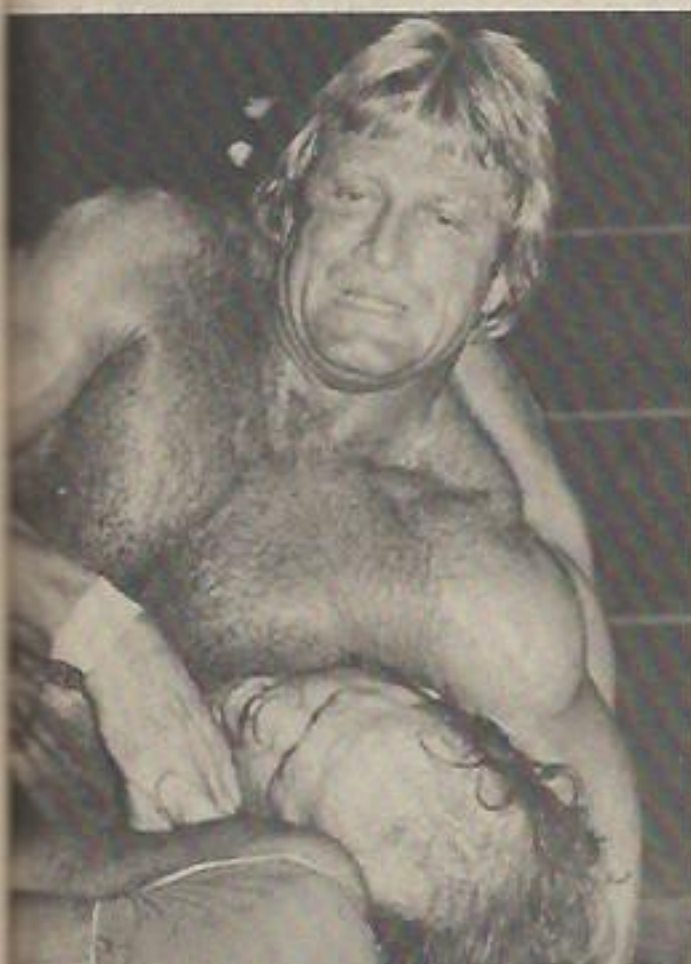
With a passionate fury borne of fear, Belinda delivers a painful chop to the brunette's neck. Many in attendance thought they heard a loud "snap" at this point, signaling a broken neck for beautiful Pamela.

WRESTLER OF THE MONTH

(Continued from Page 18)

everywhere to maintain his hold on the Georgia belt, as well as to continue to aid his friends in Georgia in their battles against Koloff and Sawyer.

For this extremely difficult pledge, and for continuing to remain determined to fulfill the conditions of this pledge, *Sports Review Wrestling* is proud to present Paul Orndorff with the Wrestler of the Month award for April 1983.



Orndorff's bulging biceps press against the back of Buzz Sawyer's head as the Georgia National champion applies a side headlock.

"I want to thank everyone who considered me for this honor," said Orndorff. "It's important to me because even though I hold the Georgia championship, outside recognition is reassuring.

"It's the same kind of feeling I get when I read mail from my fans," Orndorff explained. "I thrive on the support of the fans. It's important for me to know that I'm in the ring working for more than just my own satisfaction.

"Don't get me wrong," Orndorff continued, "I do get personal

satisfaction out of wrestling. I love wrestling, and I wouldn't want to be doing anything else with my life right now. But any man has to look beyond himself to get true satisfaction out of his life.

"In my case, I get satisfaction out of the pleasure the fans receive when they see me win a match. It's a great feeling. To see the smiles on their faces, to hear their cheers in the arenas, to know that there is support out there for what I'm doing. There's no other feeling like it in the world."

Orndorff does more than just soak up the accolades of wrestling fans everywhere. There is a lot of hard work involved, and Orndorff is well aware of that fact.

"I've been doing a lot of wrestling against Ivan Koloff lately," Orndorff said. "He seems to want my Georgia belt quite a bit. Why, he even cornered me into a Russian Chain Match recently. That's Koloff's specialty, and fortunately, it wasn't a title match, but it could have been. I'm going to go into special training to try and counter the kinds of things Koloff uses in a Chain Match. If it's a title match the next time, I want to be prepared."

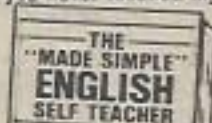
Orndorff's training methods have become legendary. When he was preparing to wrestle Masked Superstar, he spent hundreds of hours in the gym with his good friend Brad Armstrong perfecting a countermovement to the Superstar's cobra hold. It was that countermovement that enabled Orndorff to finally regain the Georgia belt from Superstar.

Strong, agile, experienced, and determined. These are but a few of the qualities that make Paul Orndorff one of the most formidable opponents in the world. We congratulate Orndorff, our Wrestler of the Month for this issue. □

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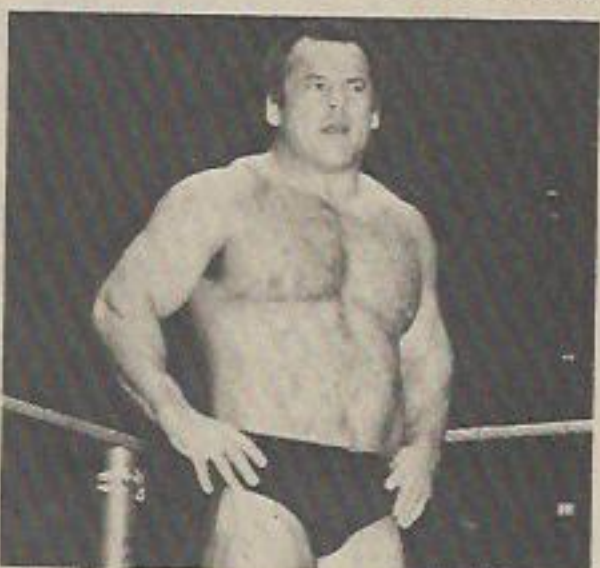
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THE TATTLER

(Continued from Page 12)

in the WWF, Putski says he is ready to branch out and wrestle in different areas of the country.

"The fans on the East Coast have been good to me over the years," Putski explained, "but I am always getting mail from people all across the country.



IVAN PUTSKI

They want me to come to their own towns. I decided I should give them, and some of the wrestlers in their area, a taste of Polish Power."

With the formidable Polish hammer at his disposal, it's a sure bet that Putski will make a distinct impression on both the fans here in San Antonio and the wrestlers who are unfortunate enough to step into the ring with him.

—James Washington

BALTIMORE—In their first match with the WWF tag team champion Strongbow brothers since their return to the area, two-time former WWF tag team champions The Samoans failed to capture the belts.

The match took place in the Capital Centre in Landover, Maryland. Before a sold-out crowd of nearly 20,000, Chief Jay Strongbow and Jules Strongbow turned back the

challenge of The Samoans.

"I am very proud of our victory here tonight," said Jay Strongbow following the match. "This proves that we are able to defeat The Samoans. We know that they are after the belts, we know that Captain Lou Albano is training The Samoans for one purpose: to defeat Jules and myself, but with this victory under our belts we are much more confident that we will be able to withstand the challenge of The Samoans and continue to bring dignity to the WWF tag team championship."

—John West

MEMPHIS, TN—Self-proclaimed "King of Wrestling" Jerry Lawler has declared his intentions to capture Nick Bockwinkel's AWA championship belt.

"I am the one, the only, the King of Wrestling itself," bragged Lawler, "and I think it's about time I obtained a major heavyweight championship belt. I think Nick Bockwinkel's AWA belt would look nice around my waist."

Does Lawler have any doubts that he will be able to dethrone the AWA champion?

"None at all," Lawler said confidently. "Nick Bockwinkel is a lot of hot air. His wrestling style isn't all that difficult to figure out. I may fail to capture the title the first or second time I wrestle Bockwinkel, but that's to be expected. What I am certain of, however, is that I will gain the title sooner or later. If Otto Wanz can defeat Bockwinkel, Jerry Lawler certainly can."

—Randy Swift □

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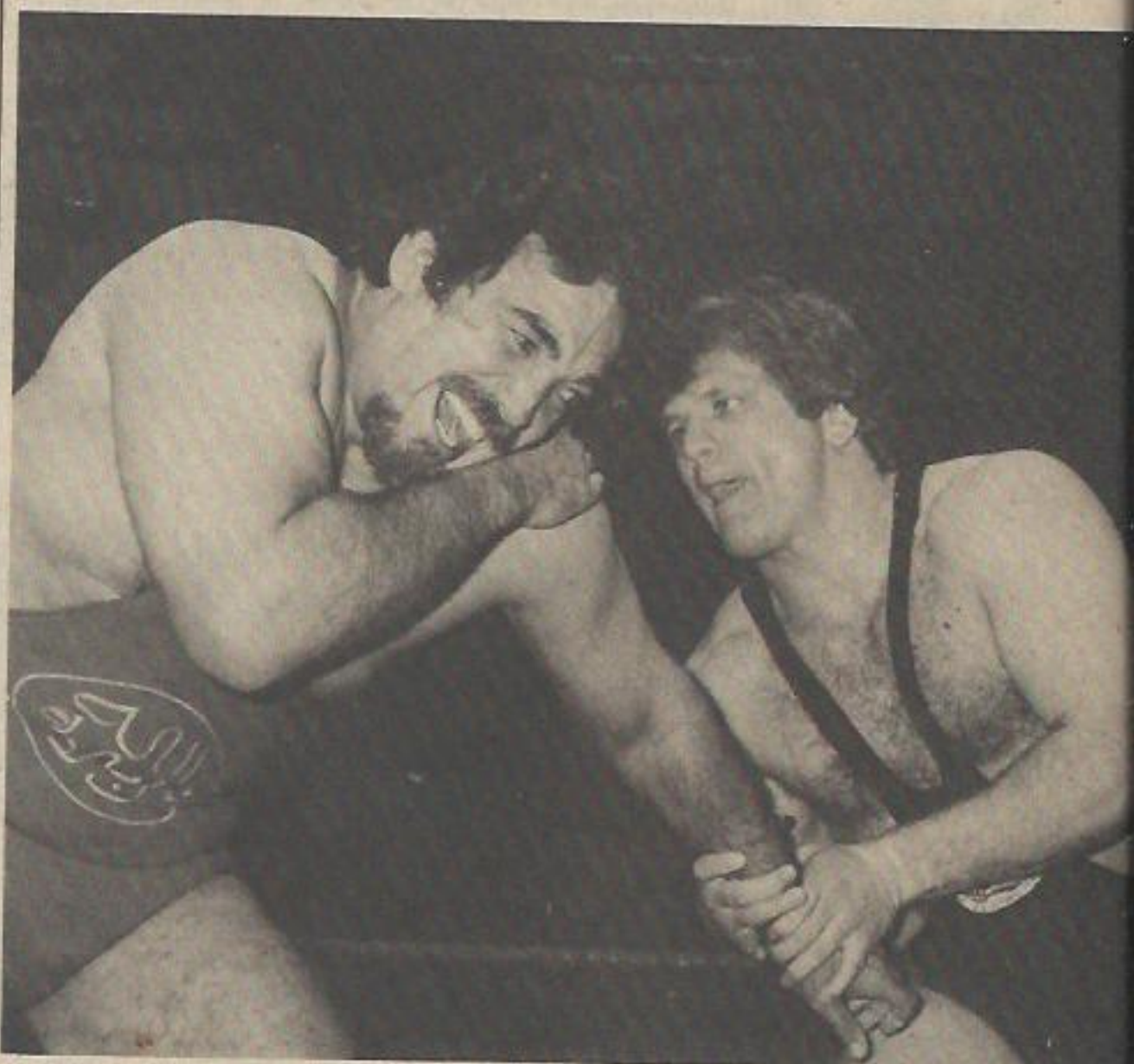


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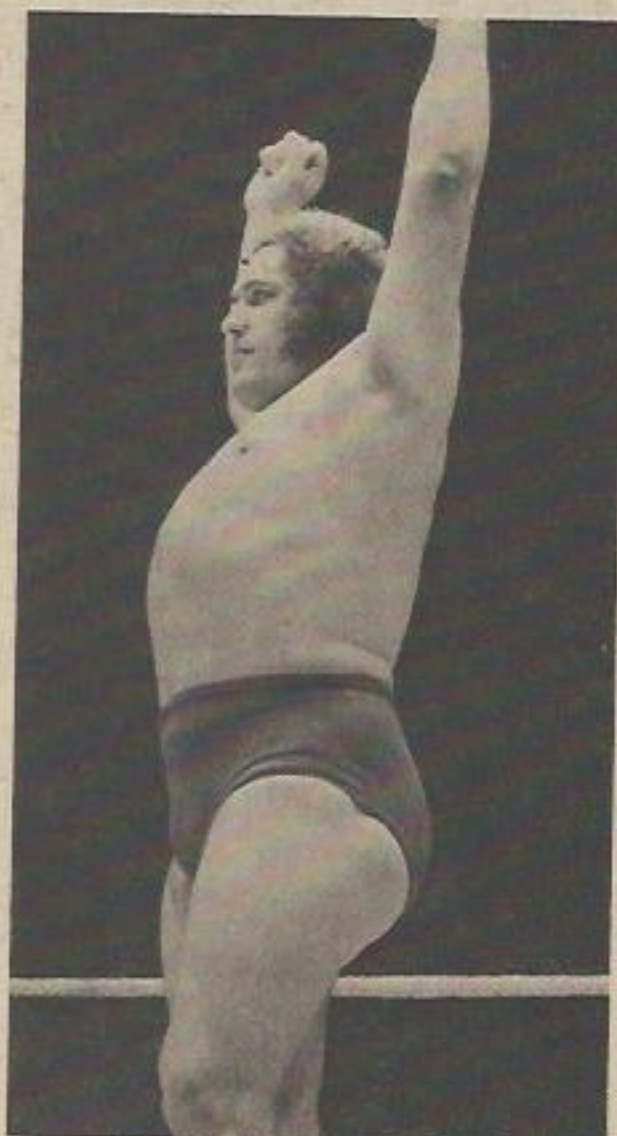
(Continued from Page 14)



After an up-and-down early career, Brad Rheingans (twisting the arm of Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie) has come on very strongly. Michael Evans of Chicago feels Rheingans benefited from his losses.

Michael Evans, Chicago, IL: "If there weren't losers, there wouldn't be winners. It's like how would we know what hot was if we didn't have cold? You can't feel too bad about it. My current favorite is Brad Rheingans, and I've watched him grow up in this sport. He got beat a lot in his early matches, but he learned a lot from those matches, too. He might not be as good as he is today if it wasn't for those early losses. So ... no, I guess it doesn't bother me much."

Steve Keller, San Francisco, CA: "It used to be a problem for me. I'd get really mad. It was especially bad at home. Once I even broke a chair in my living room after seeing a match that I didn't exactly approve of. But I don't worry



Andre the Giant never lets down his fans: He never loses!

about that anymore. My favorite is now Andre the Giant. I don't think I'll ever see him lose."

Catherine Chase, Tampa, FL:
"Oh, it really doesn't upset me at all. What upsets me sometimes is some of the things that happen to wrestlers in the ring. Like when Dusty Rhodes and Terry Funk wrestled in that Barbed Wire Match. It was plain disgusting. Whoever thought that up was just crazy or something. I can't imagine why anyone would want to wrestle in a match like that."

Frank DeGregorio, St. Louis, MO: "Usually, if we leave the Kiel Auditorium in a bad mood after a wrestling card, my friends and I go out and get drunk. That makes me feel better." □

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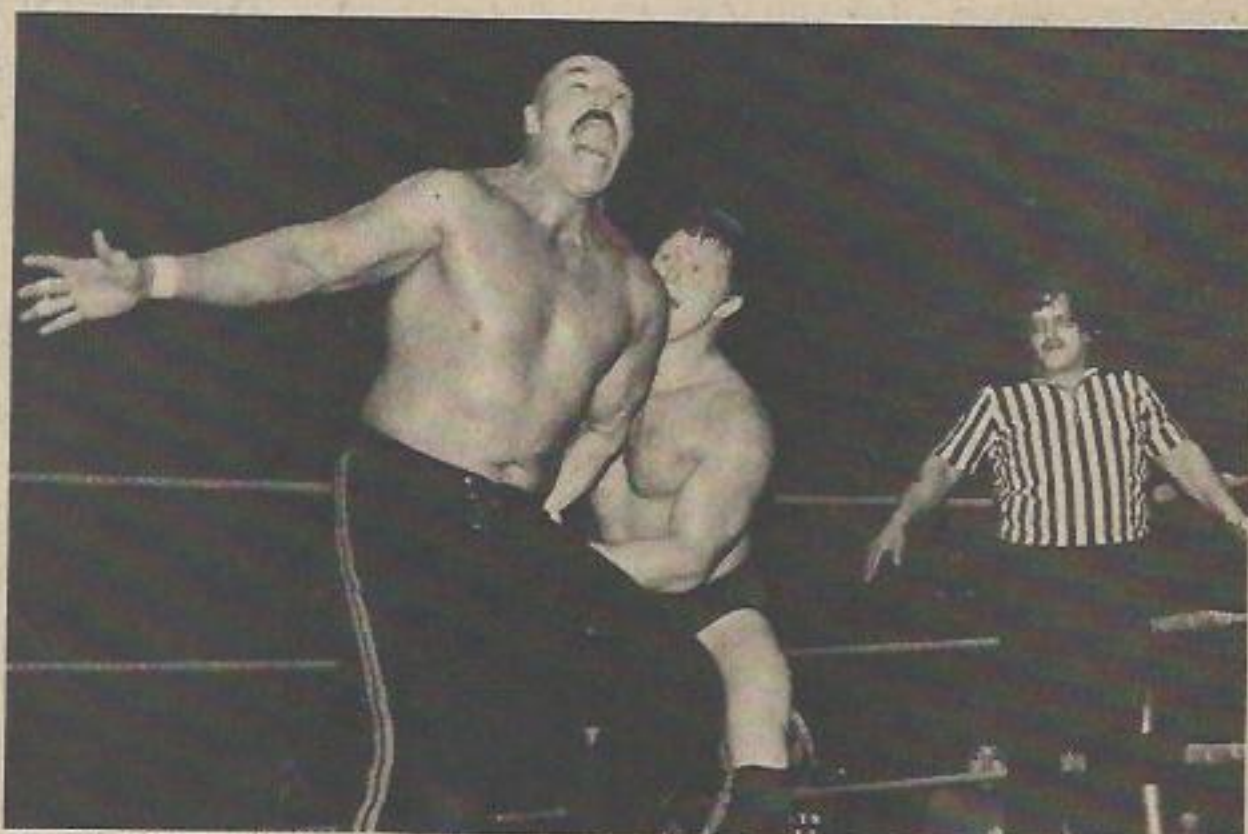
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GRAHAM-BACKLUND

(Continued from Page 35)



Backlund draws a cry of pain from Graham as he twists his challenger's arm (above). Eddie Gilbert, Rocky Johnson, and Salvatore Bellomo help Backlund back into the ring (bottom). After being shoved by the loser, Hanson punches Graham in the stomach (opposite page).

surprised if Jack Lotz [the referee

So when I returned to wrestling, I was well aware of Backlund's "bond" with the referees. I wrestled for that match] had a check in his pocket with Bob Backlund's or Arnold Skoaland's signature on it.

I tried to take the belt back a couple of times right after that, but Backlund was wrestling with a great deal of strength, the referees continued to make judgments in his favor, and I was still a little stunned from the fact that he had actually gotten away from grand larceny in front of so many thousands of people!

So I left wrestling for a little while. I went into special training. I wanted my belt back, and I am accustomed to getting what I want.

As I trained, I saw the title reign of Bob Backlund grow: one, two, three years and more. When I could, I watched tapes of his matches. I analyzed his style so that I could tailor my own style toward defeating him once and for all. I wanted to avenge the wrong that had been committed against me and my championship belt.

As I analyzed Backlund's style, I

noticed one important fact: He has no style! Constantly, in every match I was able to see, Bobby Backlund has had his title saved by the referees. Again and again, Backlund's opponents would be placed in a position where the referee could make a judgment call one way or the other.

Always, in every match, the referee decided in favor of Bobby Backlund and against his challenger.

Is this mere coincidence? I don't think so. I cannot honestly believe that all things being equal, Bobby Backlund could defend the WWF championship for nearly five years.



him normally a few times, just to check my theories, test my new martial arts-influenced style against whatever it is he calls a style.

Then I pulled my ace in the hole: a Lumberjack Match. A sure winner would be declared. No chance of being counted out of the ring, and a very slim chance of disqualification. Best of all, Swede Hanson was named as special referee.

I believed I could trust Swede. He is a big man, an experienced wrestler, and a man not about to be influenced one way or another in the ring by anyone.

But I never counted on his stupidity. Bob Backlund didn't catch me in the chicken wing, he caught me in a variation of the chicken wing that is in fact a chokehold! I was signaling to Hanson that Backlund was choking me, and that idiot Hanson believed I was submitting!



I have no doubt in my mind that Bob Backlund met with Swede Hanson prior to that Lumberjack Match, discussed matters, and probably handed him a healthy amount of cash.

Bobby Backlund, you stole the WWF belt from me again! By all rights, that belt is mine; I want it back, and I will get it back!

Beware, Bobby Backlund... I'm not through with you yet! □

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Apartment Wrestling

(Continued from Page 47)

An instant later, Pamela felt her head being crushed in Belinda's vise-like grip. The blonde's face was a mask of rage as she mercilessly tightened her hold. Pamela's face grew red and grunts escaped her lips. The powerful body struggled desperately but without intelligence. Instinct for survival guided every clumsy move.

It was too early in the match, however, for a conquest of strength. Pamela had the reserves to force an escape. Once free, she rolled to the other side of the room. Her look of easy conquest was gone. Now, her expression spoke of cold fury. The spectators leaned forward in their chair. Belinda's benefactor never seemed happier.



Above: Now it's Pamela's turn to try and break her opponent's neck. Below: Pam's knee hits Belinda flush in the mouth, a very painful experience.



Belinda wraps her arm around the lush brunette's neck while her nails work their torture over her back.

Belinda took the advantage. In a blur of action, she twisted Pamela's arm, turned the brunette around, and then kicked hard to the back of Pamela's knee. The victim crumpled to the carpet. Belinda was on her in a flash. The blonde's fist pummeled the fallen battler. Belinda wasn't interested in winning. She wanted to inflict pain.

It was easy for Pamela to escape. Capture hadn't been Belinda's intent. That was one mistake Belinda made.

Pamela's rage knew no bounds. She rushed Belinda, grabbed the brunette around the waist, and lifted her high in the air. Belinda tried to struggle free, but Pamela's motion was too swift. In an incredible display of power, the brunette threw her victim against the wall. The crack of Belinda's head smaching into wood resounded throughout the room.

Groggy, clumsy, Belinda tried to struggle to safety. It was no use. Pamela smashed a fist into the blonde's mid-section. Belinda gasped for air as she crawled away. Pamela didn't let her go far.

Belinda felt Pamela's powerful grasp choking her mercilessly. The brunette knew just where to

(Continued on page 62)



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Apartment Wrestling

(Continued from Page 58)

hit as her fingers clawed at Belinda's neck. The blonde jerked across the carpet like a windblown puppet, tears streaming down her face and horrible gasps coming from her throat.

It looked like the end. Pamela remembered the previous match. Every nerve tingled with the promise of torture. For that reason, she released Belinda to continue her mauling. Some in the crowd cheered. The wealthy



An almost unconscious Pamela will be in even more pain as Belinda prepares to strike the brunette a hard blow across the face. Few have ever seen two women as ruthless and cruel as these two beauties.

benefactor sat with eyes gleaming.

For the next few minutes, only the sadistic enjoyed themselves. Every movement brought new agonies to Belinda. Pamela's assault mercilessly tormented the blonde's face, neck, breasts, belly, thighs and calves. Hideous welts and contusions dappled Belinda's beautiful frame. Despite her horror, Belinda refused to surrender. She was driven by more than fear of losing her livelihood. Something inside forced her to go on. It was that something which allowed her to survive.

Belinda's legs flashed out and snared Pamela around the calves. Pamela went down face first. Belinda awkwardly leaped on top of her foe, driving her knee into the small of Pamela's back. The brunette jerked almost back upon herself, giving the spectators a perfect look at her agonized expression. It fed Belinda's bloodlust, restoring the blonde's strength.

Belinda grabbed Pamela's long legs and began to drag the brunette across the carpet. The breasts and belly rubbed against the rug, burning flesh with every inch of the forced journey. Pamela rilled and twisted, trying desperately to end her torture. But Belinda, in spite of her weakened condition, held firm.

At times, it seemed like the task was also torturing Belinda. Sweat poured down her lush body as the exertion reached superhuman heights. Battered but not broken, she used all her strength to drag her foe across the room. Eyes closed, grunting from pain, she continued this odyssey. Finally, she stumbled and fell.

Now both women were free. Yet, the wages of battle lay heavy on both of them. Their movements were constricted by injury. Two lesser warriors would

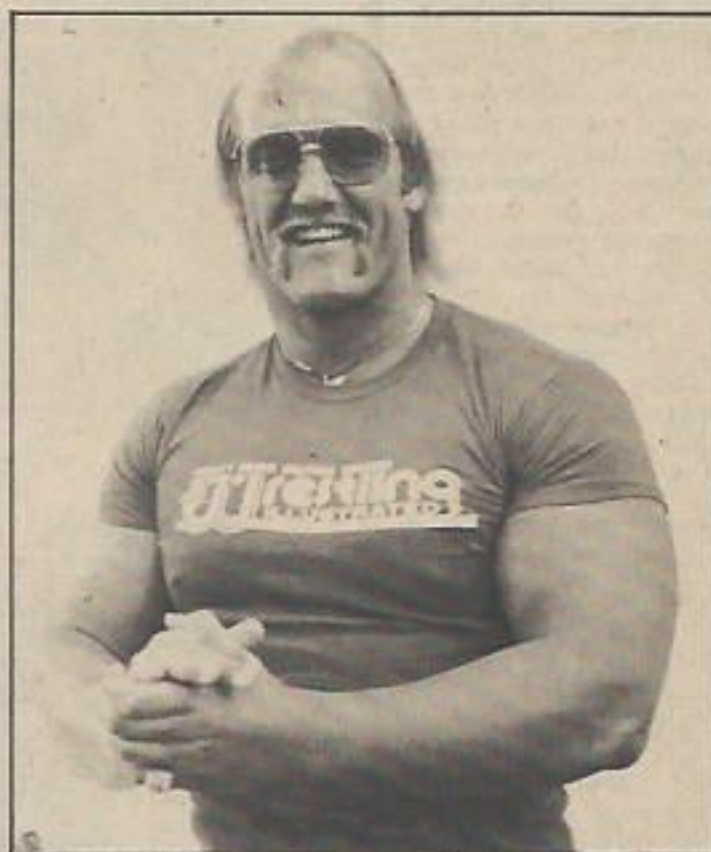
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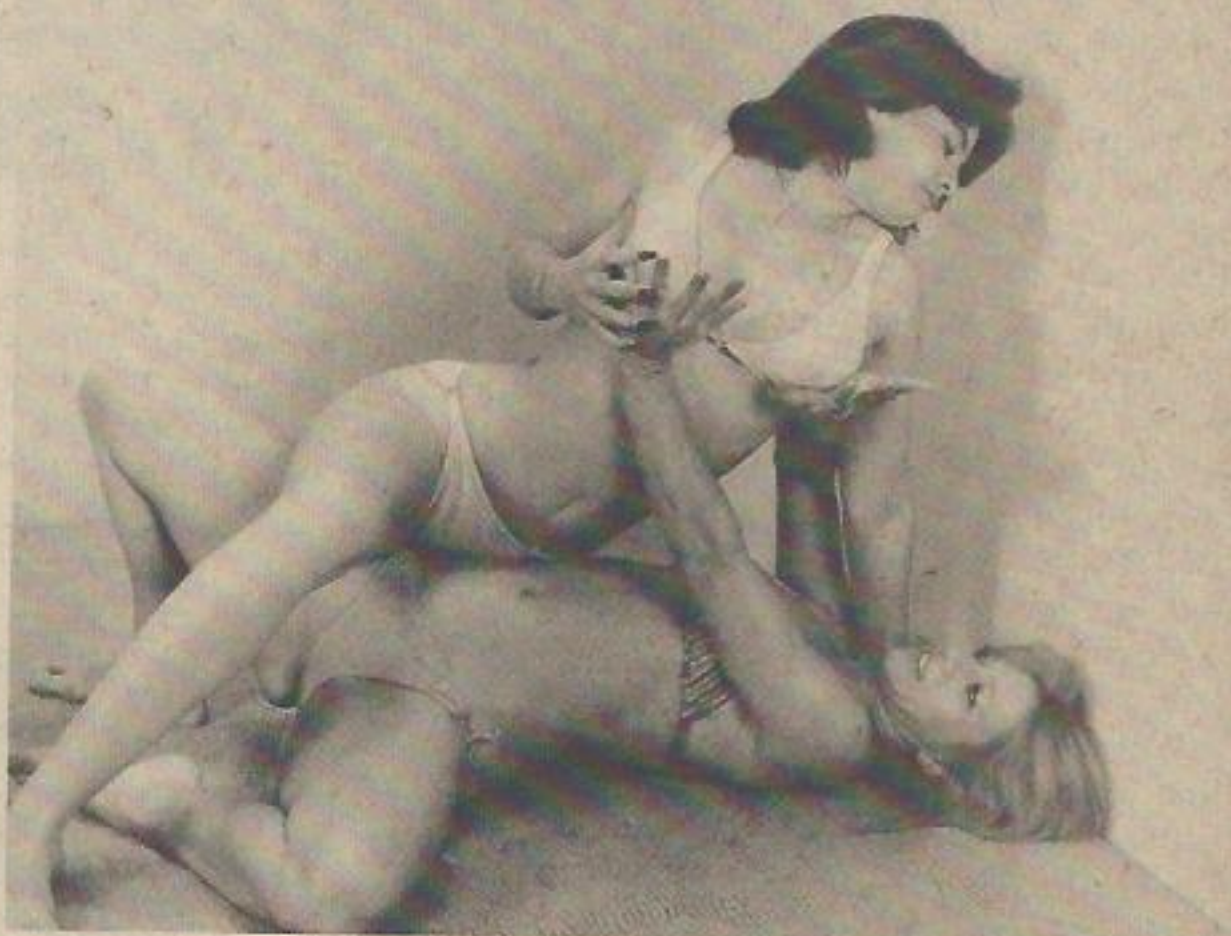
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Apartment Wrestling

(Continued from Page 63)



A cornered Belinda pushes the flat of her palm hard onto Pam's breast (above). The two women war to the end (below).



have surrendered. But this was the match each woman knew would one day come. It had to be seen to its finish, whatever the consequences.

Pamela moved first, rushing at Belinda. The smack of flesh resounded throughout the apartment as the beauties, locked in abominable embrace, clawing and tearing in senseless fury. People watched in fascination as two magnificent battlers, driven by instinct and deprived of reason, waged war on the most primitive level of all—the instinct of hatred.

The action grew slow and clumsy. Cries and moans mingled until they became one melody of pain. There was no winner or loser, only pain and madness. And the battle continued.

Finally, something snapped in Pamela's will. Every limb went limp and she fell unconscious. Belinda, too driven to realize what happened, beat upon her senseless foe as a child plays with a rag doll. Someone had to pull



The end is near for Pamela as her blonde foe pulls on her lithe leg. Both women proved their worth—and beauty.

her off. She kept struggling for about 20 seconds, her body unable to cease its motion. Then, as if anesthetized, she collapsed.

The two women were carried into the bedrooms. Neither knew what the outcome of the match had been. Their last conscious memory was of a valiant struggle.

Belinda woke up the next morning in her own bed. Every muscle in her body was stiff and aching. The maid was sent away without serving breakfast. Food was the last thing on Belinda's mind. She knew she had won the match because she was still living in the penthouse.

Was it worth it? Could any luxury be worth this agony? Belinda slid her body across the silk sheets and knew it was worth every scrape and cut. □

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